Law firm's bid to withdraw as IPI counsel opposed. PAGE 3
BMV to re-issue driver's licenses printed with error. PAGE 5

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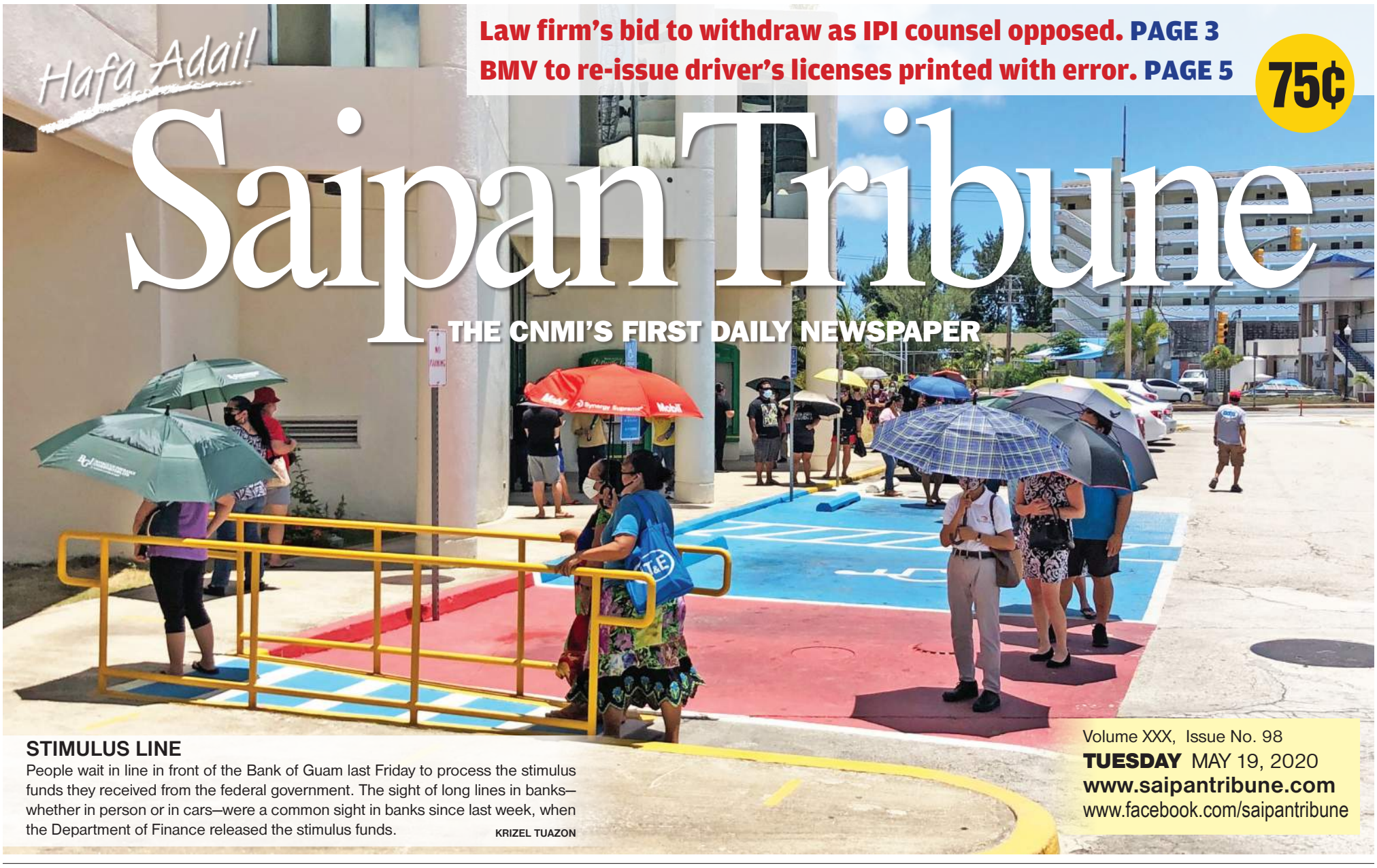
Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



STIMULUS LINE
People wait in line in front of the Bank of Guam last Friday to process the stimulus funds they received from the federal government. The sight of long lines in banks—whether in person or in cars—were a common sight in banks since last week, when the Department of Finance released the stimulus funds. KRIZEL TUAZON

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No LibDay parade this year

The iconic Liberation Day festivity, which coincides with the national celebration of the Fourth of July, has fallen victim this year to the global coronavirus pandemic.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang announced yesterday that the Fourth of July Liberation Day celebration, which is usually held during the July 4 week, will be canceled.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the way we conduct our daily activities as we must constantly practice social distancing and avoid large gatherings," said Apatang in a statement issued by his of-

See LIBDAY on **Page 4**

OAG: Shooting in hostage drama was justified

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

- Gordon Castro likely shot girlfriend
- Castro's gun was owned by a DOC officer

An investigation into police officers shooting dead Gordon A. Castro and his girlfriend after a 38-hour-long hostage drama in San Antonio last March has concluded that it was justified.

In his report to Attorney General Edward Manibusan last Thursday, chief prosecutor John Bradley said that given the entirety of available information, especially under the difficult and sudden circumstances created by Castro, the officers' use of deadly force was immediately necessary to execute an arrest.

Bradley said the officers were authorized by law to exercise deadly force by firing their weapons.

Manibusan assigned Bradley, assisted by the AG Investigation Division, to independently review

See OAG on **Page 4**

Mass testing on Rota, Tinian starts

AT A GLANCE
As of 6pm, May 18, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	154	0	154
Recovered	126	0	126
Active	25	0	25
Deaths	6*	0	6*

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	21	0	21
Recovered	12	0	12
Active	7	0	7
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			3,420

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force brought the community-based testing initiative for COVID-19 on Rota and Tinian yesterday.

Additionally, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services will be assisting CHCC and the COVID-19 Task Force in this endeavor.

The drive-thru testing on Tinian will be held at the Ti-

See ROTA on **Page 4**

COVID-19 mass testing to drive CNMI's reopening to tourists

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The road to the CNMI's community-focused economic recovery will largely be based on COVID-19 mass testing, according to the testimony of an economic recovery team from the Office of the Governor that spoke in yesterday's committee hearing at the House of Representatives.

Matt Deleon Guerrero, who is a member of the Governor's Economic Recovery Team, said that, as more testing hap-

See TOURISTS on **Page 4**

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Scrumptious, colorful, and always inviting dollar tacos are back at Loco & Taco.

PAGE 11

NATION
Hundreds of people came to the Glynn County courthouse demanding justice for Ahmaud Arbery.

PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
"Rocky" ties with "Bull Durham" for No. 2 in The Associated Press Top 25 sports movies poll.

PAGE 15

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Local

New i911 application helps mariners in distress

The U.S. Coast Guard has saved more than 500 people around Hawaii in the last three years, thanks to cell phones, and now the Coast Guard has a new technology available to find you faster through i911.

The i911 system is a free service developed by Callyo Inc. and provides fast and accurate location data to the Coast Guard in a simple web-based interface. The user's smartphone can provide Global Positioning System information, potentially up to 20-nautical miles offshore if a mariner has recently or actively connected to a cellular tower.

"An accurate position eliminates the need to search and decreases the time needed for rescuers to get on scene to provide needed assistance," said Lt. Meagan Bowis, Sector Honolulu Command Center. "I want to emphasize; the Coast Guard is not actively monitoring all individuals by their cell phone and only has access to a person's position if granted permission."

No application download is needed. The Coast Guard can send a text message to the mariner's cell phone requesting permission to access the GPS location information; all the mariner needs to do is enable location information in their smartphone settings and click the link provided in the text message. You can stop sharing your location at any time, although it is recommended to do so only after being safe and not in distress.

The Coast Guard can then use the provided positions to direct search assets to the mariner's location.

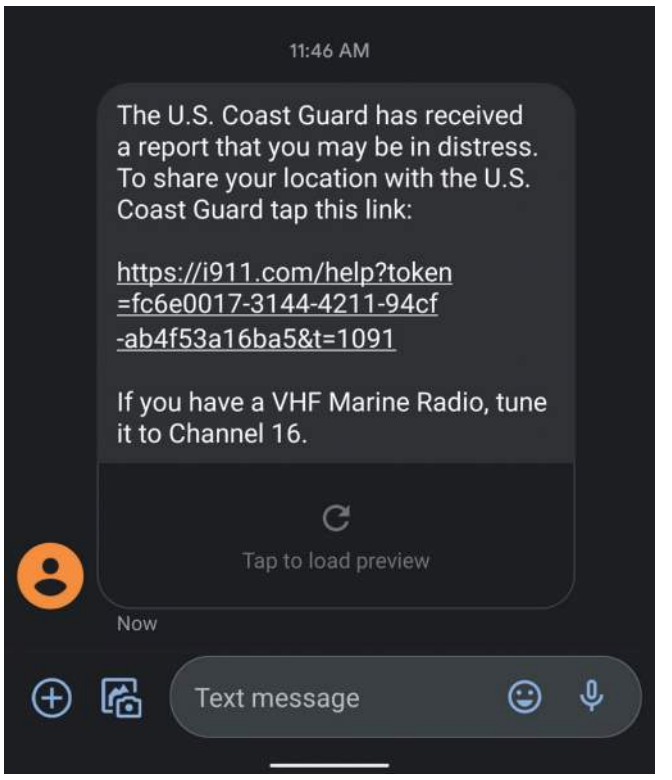
"Many distress calls come in via cell phone," said Sam Gardner, Sector Honolulu Command Center. "From that call, I can send the phone a location-request text. Once the mariner accepts the request, their location pops up on my screen almost immediately."

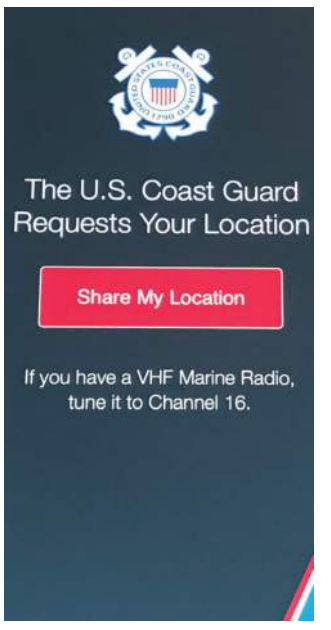
Over the past three years, half of the search and rescue notifications received by District 14 have been made by phone calls through 911 or directly to the Coast Guard. These calls resulted in 534 lives saved, 1,300 lives assisted, over $10 million in property saved, and $33.5 million in property assisted.

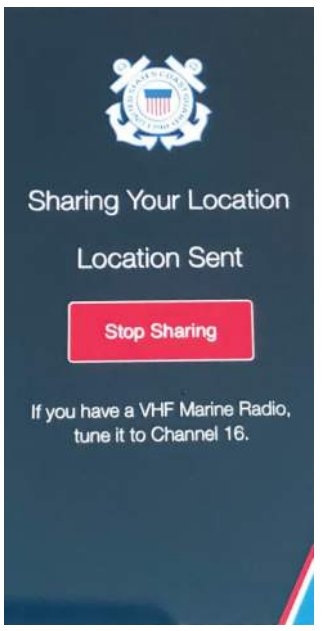
This software is already available to first responders at agencies across the country. The Coast Guard ran a pilot program from May to November 2019 in the Northeast, and the new application was instrumental in resolving several search and rescue cases in the New England region. It is now an available tool to Coast Guard command centers across the country as of March 20.

The Coast Guard's 14th District has followed other districts in implementing this groundbreaking technology to assist mariners in distress on the waters throughout the Pacific. This tool is not a replacement for standard devices known to mariners, such as Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacons and VHF radios. However, the Coast Guard now has the i911 technology as an additional tool to provide lifesaving information from a mariner's cell phone.

For any questions regarding i911, visit their website at http://i911.zendesk.com/. ***(USCG)***


11:46 AM
The U.S. Coast Guard has received a report that you may be in distress. To share your location with the U.S. Coast Guard tap this link:
https://i911.com/help?token=fc6e0017-3144-4211-94cf-ab4f53a16ba5&t=1091
If you have a VHF Marine Radio, tune it to Channel 16.
Tap to load preview
Now
Text message





The Coast Guard's 14th District has followed other districts in implementing the groundbreaking i911 technology to assist mariners in distress on the waters throughout the Pacific.

U.S. COAST GUARD

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Public Comments

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
FY 2021-2023 GOALS

Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, provides the authority for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council (CNMI SILC) and the sole Center for Living Independently in the CNMI (CLI-CNMI), to seek public input on priority needs related to disability issues to guide the development of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), for FY 2021-2023. The State Plan is supported by the currently identified Designated State Entity (DSE), the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. The SPIL is a plan designed to improve Independent Living (IL) services for individuals with disabilities in the CNMI. The SPIL also helps to identify the needs and priorities of consumers, providers, and other stakeholders involved in the CLI-CNMI to highlight and identify common strategies. Ultimately, the State Plan is a tool that directs the use of Federal IL funding.

Goal 1 : Five (5) Core Independent Living (IL) Services
Enhance and expand the five (5) core IL services in a manner that will maximize benefits to the greatest number of individuals with significant disabilities. The 5 core IL services are: Information & Referral; IL Skills Training; Peer Counseling; Individual and System Advocacy; and Transition.

Goal 2: Collaboration with Disability Network Partners
Work in collaboration with the CNMI Disability Network Partners to provide quality services and supports to dual customers, resulting in competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities consistent with their interests, skills, abilities, capabilities, informed choice, etc. The partners include but not limited to, the State Rehabilitation Council, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Council on Developmental Disabilities, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc., individuals with disabilities, their family members, and employers (either perspective or actual).

Goal 3: Transportation
Continue to support the efforts of the CNMI Disability Network Partners especially the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority to improve and expand availability, affordability, and accessibility of public transportation services including areas considered unserved and/or underserved (e.g. Tinian and Rota).

Goal 4: Accessible Recreational Opportunities
Promote and support the efforts of community partners to enrich the lives of CNMI residents with disabilities and build a healthier community by pursuing and making available accessible recreational opportunities.

WRITTEN COMMENTS
Due to the Covid-19 social distancing mandates, written comments can be submitted to the CNMI SILC before 12:00 noon on Wednesday, May 20, 2020. Comments can be sent via e-mail to clisusansatur@gmail.com or maryann@ovrgov.net.

This advertisement is paid for by federal grants under Title VII, Part B Independent Living Program, DHHS/ACL.

Law firm's bid to withdraw as IPI counsel opposed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two former contractors of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC are opposing a law firm's bid to withdraw as counsel for IPI in connection with their three lawsuits against IPI in federal court.

The former IPI contractors—Pacific Rim Land Development LLC and U.S.A. Fanter Corp. Ltd.—pointed out through their lawyer, Colin M. Thompson, that the law firm of O'Connor Berman Horey and Banes only gave a hint of the reasons they wish to withdraw as counsel for IPI in the lawsuits.

Thompson said Thursday last week that the law firm should provide a compelling reason, a new counsel that is prepared to take over the case, and a legitimate plan for meeting the court's deadlines, or the court to deny the law firm's request.

Thompson said that in Pacific Rim's lawsuit, the case has pending responses to IPI's counterclaims due and Pacific Rim has upcoming post-judgment motions they intend to file in the coming weeks.

Thompson said the O'Connor law firm's motion does not satisfy their burden to show good cause to withdraw from the case. He pointed out that the only hint given by the law firm in its motion is a citation from the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct stating that "professional considerations require termination of the representation."

Thompson

"This statement is wholly insufficient as a reason for withdrawal," the lawyer said.

Citing precedent, Thompson said courts refuse to grant a withdrawal motion where no explanation is provided or the justification is dubious, even where the client terminated the attorney.

He said the motion should be denied because withdrawal will prejudice Pacific Rim and U.S.A. Fanter and harm the administration of justice.

Thompson said regardless of how the motion is decided, the court should issue an unequivocal warning that this proposed change of counsel will in no way justify any delay and that IPI must comply with each and every aspect of the court's orders or it will face severe sanctions.

Attorney Cong Nie, who is a member of the O'Connor law firm, asked the court to withdraw the law firm as counsel for IPI in the lawsuits, saying that professional considerations warrant the withdrawal.

If the court needs additional information as to the basis for the withdrawal, Nie said the O'Connor law firm asks the court to permit the firm to submit confidential client information under seal.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for failing to pay it $5.65 million in work done at the casino. It is demanding approximately $10 million in damages. Pacific Rim also filed an application for a mechanic's lien on IPI's hotel-casino project and on the land that it sits on. A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

U.S.A. Fanter is suing IPI for issuing statements published in two newspapers that allegedly contained libelous statements. It asked the court to hold IPI liable to pay unspecified damages. The company also asked the court to require IPI to make a public retraction of the statements at issue. U.S.A. Fanter also sued IPI for allegedly refusing to pay $2.08 million for construction work related to the VIP wing and exterior work of IPI's hotel-casino currently being constructed in Garapan. U.S.A. Fanter asked the court to attach mechanic's lien to IPI's interests in the real property on the project.

SOCIAL DISTANCING
Markers on the floor make social distancing at the Commonwealth Health Center an easy concept to follow. Everyone who enters the CHC building undergoes a temperature check and must wear a face mask and apply hand sanitizer.
KRIZEL TUAZON

Bradley confident OPD's objection to practice of submitting police affidavit is without merit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chief prosecutor John Bradley is confident that the Office of the Public Defender's objection to the OAG's "practice" of submitting in court a police detective's affidavit to support an arrest warrant in criminal cases without an accompanying complaint is without merit.

Bradley told *Saipan Tribune* that OPD's objection will not interfere with the ability of police to continue their good work in drafting and presenting warrants. He cited Rule 3 of Criminal Procedure that states that a "complaint" is a "written statement of the essential facts constituting the offense charged." The chief prosecutor said a warrant is accompanied by a detailed sworn statement of those facts and an identification of the offense committed.

Bradley

"That satisfies the rule," he said.

Bradley said everyone has recognized for decades now that these documents comply with the preliminary requirements for arresting and charging a person.

Assistant public defender Jean Nogues and chief public defender Douglas Hartig cited the OAG's "practice" of filing only the detective's affidavit during a bail hearing for Kennedy Masubed last May 11. The OPD was appointed as counsel for Masubed, an inmate who allegedly stabbed and wounded with a shiv a male barber who had just cut his hair at the Department of Corrections in Susupe last May 7. Masubed allegedly admitted to police that he beat up the barber for being gay.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ordered the parties to file briefs about the issue, saying the OPD's concern has far-reaching ramifications. The motion hearing will be on July 8, 2020.

At the bail hearing, Nogues pointed out that without the complaint, there is no charging document.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds, who is counsel for the government, said this is the first time he heard such an argument. Hinds said the arrest warrant was issued by the court after a police detective submitted an affidavit that found probable cause to charge Masubed. Hinds asserted that the rule says the government needs to file a complaint or affidavit, or both complaint and affidavit. Hinds said the affidavit that indicates probable cause of the charges is the complaint.

Nogues said the rule requires the filing of a charging document because a defendant has the right to be informed of the charges. Nogues also pointed out that the affidavit itself is not a complaint.

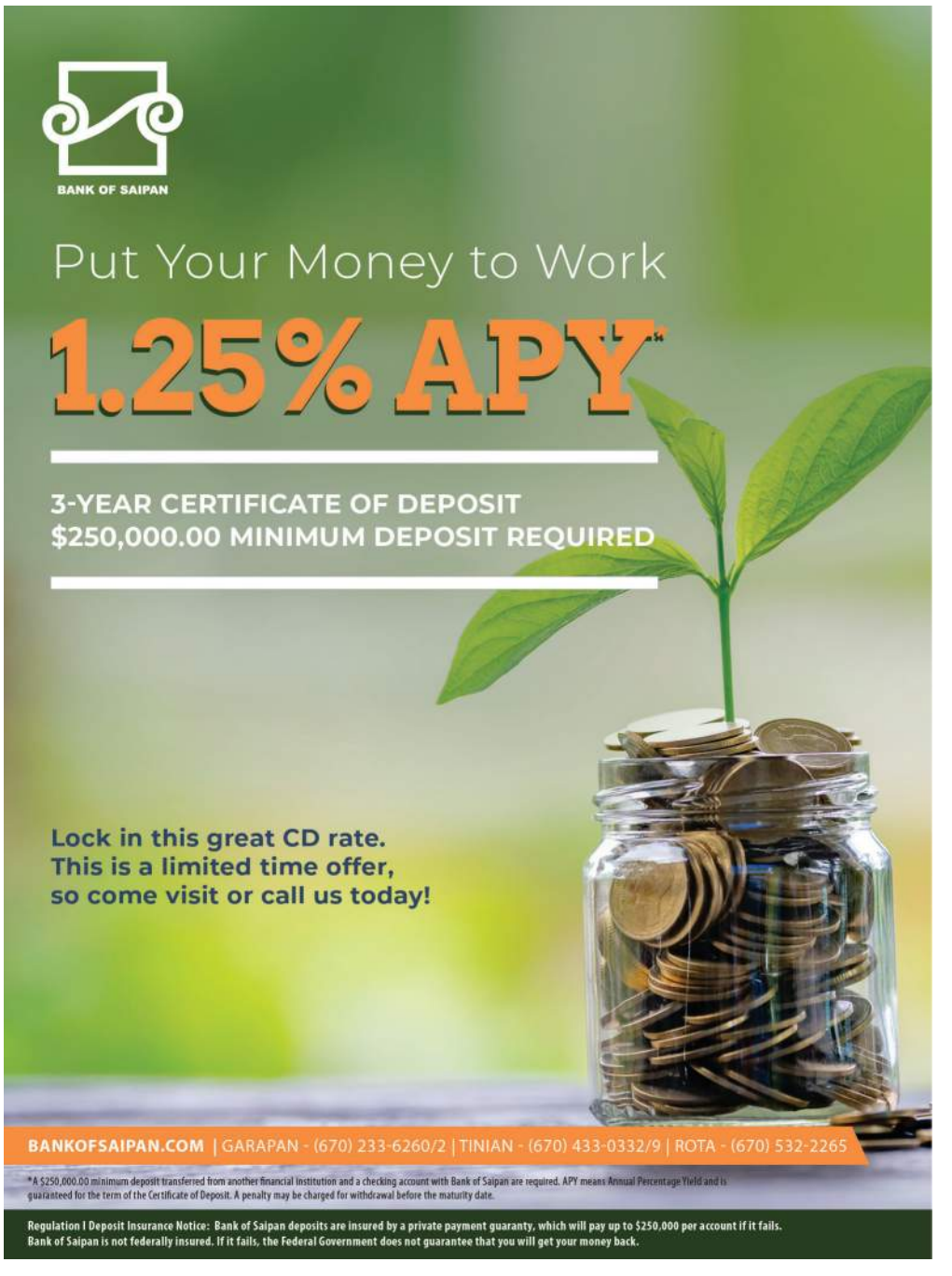
Hae Jun Lee graduates from Bob Jones U

GREENVILLE, SC—Hae Jun Lee, a resident of Saipan, was among nearly 700 students who graduated from Bob Jones University last May 8.

Lee graduated with an MS in Educational Leadership.

During the virtual ceremony, over 500 students received bachelor's degrees, nearly 100 students received master's degrees and nearly 40 students received associate degrees. Five candidates earned doctoral degrees.

Traditional, in-person commencement exercises will be held Saturday, Aug. 29, at 10am in the Founder's Memorial Amphitorium. ***(PR)***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Former House speaker, CPA chair Lifoifoi passes away

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former House speaker and Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose R. Lifoifoi passed away on Saipan yesterday afternoon due to cardiac arrest. He was 83.

Lifoifoi is survived by his wife, Cecilia, and many children and grandchildren.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, who said yesterday that CPA is deeply saddened to hear that their long-time former chairman has passed away, said that Lifoifoi's contributions to the CNMI is innumerable.

She said she will miss Lifoifoi's friendship and the guidance he continued to personally provide her after his retirement.

"His wife, children and family are in our prayers as they go through this difficult time of mourning and grief," King-Hinds said.

Lifoifoi resigned as a member of the CPA board on Jan. 7, 2019, citing health concern. He served on the board for 16 years, 14 of which as chairman.

Lifoifoi also served as speaker of the CNMI House of Representatives from 1986 to 1988. He served as chairman of the United Micronesia Development Association. He was a known trusted friend of the late business tycoon, Larry Hillblom.

OAG

From Page 1

the circumstances surrounding the Department of Public Safety officers' use of deadly force.

In his findings, Bradley said the incident happened as the officers were executing an arrest warrant on Castro and that he fired at the officers to stop them from arresting him. Upon the officers entering the bedroom, Castro again failed to surrender and immediately began firing a handgun at the officers. The chief prosecutor said the circumstances meet the conditions required by law for the officers to use deadly force to make an arrest.

"Any reasonable trier of fact is likely to conclude that the officers were justified by the defense of use of force to make arrest," he said.

Bradley said that, given the overwhelming evidence supporting the defense of use of force to make arrest, no further analysis is required relevant to the defense of self-defense with deadly force.

Dr. Philip Dauterman, a pathologist at the Commonwealth Health Center, later performed an autopsy on Castro and his girlfriend, then-32-year-old Kisha Lyn M. King, on March 24, 2020.

Dauterman identified four gunshot wounds on Castro's body—in the head, chest, stomach, and between the chest and stomach. Dauterman concluded that it was the injuries to the head and heart that killed Castro. Bradley said the gunshots causing those injuries came from the officers.

At this point, Bradley said, there is insufficient information to identify the specific officer responsible for each gunshot.

As for King, Dauterman identified three gunshot wounds on her body—in the chest, left arm, and left pelvis. Dauterman concluded that it was the chest wound that killed King.

Bradley said King's chest wound showed signs of soot and gunpowder burns, resulting from the firearm either being in contact with or being very near her body. In addition, Bradley said, the track of the bullet through the body was at an angle consistent with the observed position of Castro's handgun.

"These facts make it very likely that the gunshot to King's chest came from Castro," he said.

At this point, Bradley said, there is insufficient information available to identify the source of the other two shots.

However, the chief prosecutor said, Dauterman concluded that those two wounds did not kill King.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

LIBDAY

From Page 1

fice. "In the interest of protecting everyone from the risk of exposure to COVID 19, we have decided that celebrating the Fourth of July with a weeklong festival and parade will have to be put off until it is safe to have a celebration."

He assured that July 4 will still be recognized as a legal holiday, "but our traditional festival at the Garapan Fishing Base and July fourth parade along Beach Road will have to be canceled."

The annual celebration is the biggest public event in the CNMI, and celebrating it has been a tradition even before the enactment of Saipan Municipal Ordinance No. 68 in 1968, designating July fourth a legal holiday. It marks the date when the gates of the internment camps in Susupe and Chalan Kanoa were opened, hence "liberation." Before that, the islands' indigenous residents were kept at the camps.

"This year's celebration will be the 74th anniversary after the gates of the camps in Susupe and Chalan Kanoa were opened, liberating many of our elders from confinement. Remembering them should be an honor of highest respect that each one of us has a responsibility to teach our generation of today of the struggles and uncertainty they faced after [World War II]," the mayor said.

"We regret to have made this decision, but each one of us has a duty to ensure that we protect one another from the spread of the COVID 19, a virus that has turned almost every person's life upside down. But because we are all in this together, we will make it through and return to our way of life before the pandemic," the mayor said. "We appreciate everyone's understanding and support during this period of uncertainty." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

ROTA

From Page 1

nian Health Center. On Rota, it will either be at the Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport or Rota Health Center.

According to Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer, she trusts her team on Rota and Tinian to do a great job and be able to ship their collection of specimens back to the Commonwealth Health Center laboratory within a day or two.

Any individual who wants to get tested can register at http://governor.gov.mp/covid-19/testing/.

Those who wish to get tested but have no access to the internet can call the CHCC COVID-19 Info line at (670) 285-1352/1542/1672/1854 between 7:30am and 8am. You must provide a valid phone number to schedule an appointment and to receive your test results.

It is important to note that the testing is only for those who wish to be tested and is not mandatory. This means testing is available for anyone who wants to be tested. Anyone who wants to be tested must have a photo ID, for CHCC to know and ensure that "this is you, and you want to be tested," Muña said. The ID does not have to be current, and can even be expired.

Testing process

Much like the community-based testing on Saipan, the drive-thru testing will be limited to up to four individuals in a car.

This is because the CHCC staff that will be administering the test is dealing with bodily fluids so that the those in the right, front and back, will be tested, Muña said. Each individual must wear a mask and stay in the vehicle throughout the process, and each individual must have to sit next to a window that can roll down. Individuals who don't have an ID will not be tested.

As for results, Muña said that its release will depend on how many specimens CHCC can get.

"The…way [the system is set right now] is it can do about 96 [specimens]. We do a run about four times, which results to about less than 400 a day. The viability of specimens can last a few days," she said in an earlier interview.

Since there is a high volume of testing that's going on right now, people should allow at least 72 hours after their appointment to call about their results.

While waiting for your test results, it's highly advised to keep up with social distancing and proper hygiene.

Donation from Taiwan

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios received a donation of 100,000 surgical masks from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan). These supplies have been turned over to CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management for distribution.

As part of its "Taiwan can help, health for all" humanitarian assistance, the CNMI was among several United States jurisdictions to receive this donation to support ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response efforts.

To date, the CNMI has 21 cases, with seven active cases, 12 recoveries, and two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services tested four individuals for COVID-19 last May 16, with zero results.

To date, there have been 154 positive cases in Guam, with five deaths and 126 released from isolation.

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, cases are released from isolation under the following conditions: resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms and negative results from two consecutive respiratory specimens collected at least 24 hours apart.

Cases that test positive for COVID-19 through follow-up testing return to active isolation. All remaining cases are in isolation.

TOURISTS

From Page 1

pen, the community would move through the different phases of recovery, including the targeted reopening of the CNMI to tourists on July 15.

Speaking at a House committees on Commerce and Tourism session, Guerrero stressed that this testing-based recovery approach is central to the phases through which the CNMI community will progress, right up to the projected reopening of tourism.

In opening up the economy, significant mitigation measures must be put in place by businesses throughout the CNMI. However, currently, the task force is bent on getting the domestic economy up and running safely first, and as quickly as possible.

Northern Marianas Business Alliance president Alex Sablan, who is also part of the Economic Recovery Team, acknowledged that while the economy has remained open except for some restrictions, employees, out of fear, do not want to go to work.

"The greater economy has been open, but we can't get our employees to go to work because they're very fearful of contracting this disease. That's a mindset issue that we have to contend with. We have to deal with," he said.

The task force appealed to the House committees to help with a resolution that will assist businesses in the CNMI to put up these COVID-19 mitigation measures, not just for the tourists but also to ensure that the workers and the rest of the community remain safe.

Testing is important

Sablan highlighted that the COVID-19 testing, while not the "silver bullet" to all the problems brought by the pandemic, could at least help contain the concern.

"It's not going to resolve all of the problems, but if we can get the vast majority of our citizens tested and know who has and who doesn't have COVID-19 at this point in time…the relative community, we think, will be filtered to a point where we have a factor known, that it is relatively contained," he added.

Thereafter, Sablan added, the CNMI may be marketed again to tourists.

Key elements to making sure that the CNMI population will remain safe through all these lies with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the COVID-19 Task Force, having capabilities to do testing, contact tracing, and monitoring.

According to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna, in order to reopen, health care capacity in the CNMI must be looked into.

"What would require for a reopening? You look at the health care capacity. We have the [Alternate Care Site] set up. We have the resources, we have the staffing support from the [U.S.] Department of Defense…," she said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is also on the ground to help with contact tracing, to assist CHCC in containing the COVID-19 cases on island.

"[We] also [have] to look at the situation of making sure the hospital has the ventilator it needs, the beds that are needed. These are all things that we need to take into account in trying to say that, yes, it's safe. But again, the guidelines, and the necessary mitigation needs to be in place," Muna added.

CHCC is working with the COVID-19 Task Force, as well as the Governor's Economic Recovery Team, to ensure that consistent monitoring and checking of businesses are in place, to ensure the safety of all employees and customers, as restrictions start to get lifted.

A different kind of tourism

When the CNMI reopens it will be a different kind of tourism. Currently, the intent of the Economic Recovery team is to work with CHCC and do testing as incremental as possible and tie it to action that can be done by members of the community.

"They are a part of the solution in lifting the restrictions. …We progress as more and more testing happen, and as greater and greater levels of tests are negative, we progress...," Guerrero said.

According to him, the experience in all economic environments is of a diminished demand across the board because of fear, inability to travel, and concerns over health. "So when we say resumption of tourism, it isn't full board exactly the way it was. It's going to be a dramatically different environment..."

"We're talking about our resumption of tourism, I don't think people in the industry are necessarily envisioning a tourism industry that looks like what happened prior to COVID-19. It is going to be substantially different, that whole environment of the economy will be substantially different," he added.

BMV to re-issue driver's licenses printed with error

The CNMI Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicle noticed an error during the printing process of some recently issued driver's licenses. A newly printed driver's license typically expires within the term of three years; however, an inadvertent error had allowed some driver's licenses to print with a one-year expiration date.

The department would like to apologize for the inconvenience and assure license holders that a new license will be printed at no extra charge, with the corrected three-year expiration date.

This error applies both to contract workers and CNMI citizens. If you notice an error on your license, visit the BMV during operational hours for a re-print.

When re-applying for a driver's license or for a re-print of a driver's license, we ask that you provide all your supporting documents when doing so.

When applying for a REAL-ID compliant driver's license supporting documents include:

1. A valid U.S. Passport

2. Original Social Security Card

3. Two documents with a proof of address (which can be obtained from a car registration, and insurance card or statement, utility bill, cellular or phone bill, lease agreement, bank statement, etc.)

When applying for a regular driver's license that is not REAL ID compliant, supporting documents include:

1. Passport (U.S. or foreign passport)

2. Document with current immigration status

3. Your expired driver's license

BMV's hours of operation are Monday – Friday:

■ **8am - 11am:** document drop-off for vehicle and/or watercraft registration renewal

■ **8am - 11am:** walk-in for driver's license renewal

■ **8am - 11am:** updated document(s) pick-up

BMV will be accepting incoming documents and will be processing these documents for next-day pick-up.

At this time BMV is still processing documents of those who have expired driver's licenses and vehicle/watercraft registrations during the month of March or earlier. Registrations that have expired beginning April 1, 2020, are asked to await the official announcement when BMV will be able to process those registrations and documents.

To prevent the machines from overheating and to prevent premature machine failure the BMV office will be processing a maximum of 50 driver's license prints per day. For more information related to BMV, call 664-9066. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN LIGHTHOUSE KRIZEL TUAZON

Renovation work at the Saipan lighthouse has been suspended since the start of the government shutdown in mid-March this year.

Scholarship Office distributes checks worth over $200K

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a two-month delay, the CNMI Scholarship Office disbursed over $200,000 worth of checks to its first batch of recipients.

According an email sent to CNMI Scholarship recipients, scholarship disbursements were delayed as a result of the CNMI's economic state. The disbursement of the first batch was initially set in February but that did not happen.

"Although CSO remains closed, our designated staff continue to follow up with the Department of Finance on a weekly basis before and during the shutdown. Unfortunately, due to the current financial state of the CNMI, there is a delay in the processing of all scholarships and many other government obligations," the email stated.

Fortunately, the CSO was able to process and distribute $212,661 in scholarship grants as of April 22, but as of last week, 18 remain undistributed because there were no response from the recipients via email.

To date, 70% of the first batch of grants have been sent out to their respective recipients. The remaining 30% remains with the CSO.

"CSO followed up with Treasury on April 22 and was able to pick up 150 checks for off-island and online students that were printed. We reached out to the recipients for disbursement instructions that evening via email. We are now at 70% complete with disbursement, only because we have not heard back from the rest of the students in this batch," the email stated.

CSO wants to apologize for the delay of the first round of grant distributions and would like to assure the next batch that even if there is a delay, CSO keeps checking with the Department of Finance.

CSO would like to encourage CNMI Scholarship recipients to check their emails and respond to the email requesting where and how the recipient can receive the check so CSO can immediately send them out once they become available.

Emergency water and wastewater service interruptions

There is an emergency water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the area of Simion Olopai Street in Chalan Kanoa (across the U.S. Postal Office) due to a 6-inch waterline break.

CUC was notified of the leak on this street yesterday at 7:23am. Water service to the affected area has been isolated and repairs to the mainline are scheduled for today, Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Repairs are anticipated to be completed at 4:30pm later. Water services to the affected area will resume after.

Also, there is an emergency wastewater service interruption for CUC customers in the areas of Lower Base, Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

This is due to an 8-inch force main break located on Santa Remedios Drive in Lower Base near the Tanapag Cemetery. Repairs to the force main are scheduled for today, May 19, 2020, and is expected to be done by 4pm. Wastewater services to the affected areas will resume after.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

FY19 MCAF Project P-9030/PAF189030
ASPI-Cargo Pad with Taxiway Extension and
FY19 MCAF Project P-9040/PAF189040
ASPI-Maintenance Support Facility
Tinian International Airport, Tinian, CNMI

BID DATE: June 2, 2020
@2:00 PM Hawaii Standard Time

Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.
License No. CT-12087
707 Richards Street, Suite 750 Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 457-4500 Fax: (808) 457-4570
Attn: Craig Oshimo (NWHI.Estimating@kiewit.com)

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and request sub-bids from all interested contractors and vendors, including DBE, UDBE, Minority, Small Business, Small Disadvantaged Business, Women-Owned Small Business, Historically Underutilized Business Zoned, Veteran-Owned Small Business, and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business.

Plans and specifications
may be obtained upon request.
Please send email request to
NWHI.Estimating@kiewit.com.

Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

PRESS RELEASE

The Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) would like to make the following announcements on its most recent actions to continue to provide essential public services during COVID-19 virus outbreak. Additionally, these actions are necessary to protect CDA employees and the public, as well as assist in preventive containment measures our Government is doing:

1. Effective today, May 18, 2020 thru Friday, May 22, 2020, CDA Saipan Office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Our Tinian and Rota offices are also open. CDA will operate on a limited capacity and therefore, requests to meet are by appointments only.

2. Effective Monday, May 25, 2020 onwards, CDA Offices will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Rota and Tinian Offices are also open. CDA will operate on a limited capacity and therefore, requests to meet are by appointments only.

3. CDA are also open to inquiries, Monday to Friday, beginning May 18, 2020, via telephone call and email. CDA telephone nos. are 234-6245/6293/7145/7146. Facsimile no. 235-7147. Website: www.developcnmi.com.

CDA Board of Directors & Executive Director, please contact
- Executive Assistant Espie Borja at extension 311
  Email at: e.borja@developcnmi.com

Loans, please contact
- Loan Manager Marie N. Coleman at extension 307
  Email at: m.coleman@developcnmi.com

Qualifying Certificate Program & Other Economic Development Activities, please contact
- Business Development Specialist Michael Camacho at extension 308
  Email at: m.camacho@developcnmi.com

Accounting, please contact
- Comptroller, Donnie P. Militante at extension 301
  Email at: d.militante@developcnmi.com

- Financial Services Manager Elaine DLG Benjamin at extension 302
  Email at: e.benjamin@developcnmi.com

Administration, please contact
- Office Manager Christy N. Kintol at extension 310
  Email at: c.kintol@developcnmi.com

Rota Office, please contact
- CDA Representative Elaine M. Manglona at Tel. No. 532-9408
  Email at: e.manglona@developcnmi.com

Tinian Office, please contact
- CDA Representative Thalia R. Hofschneider at Tel. No. 433-9203
  Email at: t.hofschneider@developcnmi.com

4. CDA will maintain social distancing, no mask – no entry rule for clients and absolutely no admittance to persons who showed symptomatic of the virus.

Pursuant to Law, the Commonwealth Development Authority is tasked with the responsibility to identify, formulate, stimulate and facilitate business and commercial enterprises where a service necessary and vital to economic development is required or where profit incentives are not sufficient to attract private sector investments.

/s/ Ignacio L. Perez
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
CDA Executive Director

Tinian Mayor's Office prioritizes revitalization of kids' park

Telecommunications firm IT&E recently donated playground equipment to Tinian as part of the municipality's effort to revitalize the Tinian Children's Park.

Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan is grateful to IT&E for the donation and thankful to the U.S. Navy Seabees for assisting the Mayor of Tinian's Special Projects team with the initiation of revitalizing the park.

Aldan also thanked the 17th Tinian Municipal Council for its help with the new equipment.

In a statement from his office, Aldan also extended his appreciation to the Special Projects Team for their hard work and dedication to enhancing the park with the installation of new recreational activities for the youth.

The Tinian Children's Park is an ongoing project that is spearheaded by the Tinian Mayor's Office-Projects Management Division and is under the management of Raena P. Cing-Cabrera and Romeo Diaz. Aldan identified this project as one of his priorities to enhance youth development and family recreational facilities.

A survey that was sent out to the schools and community members early this year regarding their vision of the park all came back positive and in support of the park's revitalization as a priority. That prompted the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan to submit grant applications for the Community Block Development Grant and the Technical Assistance Program for funding to replace the chain-link fence that enclose the park's surroundings, repair the concrete benches and picnic tables, build new concrete picnic tables and pavilions, purchase and install more playground equipment (monkey bars, seesaw, slide, tetherball, jungle gym, adult fitness course), build a basketball and volleyball court, renovate the bathrooms and changing rooms, install new light posts and lamp fixtures, build a site for vendors to sell refreshments, and possibly even plan for a splash pad or some other form of recreational water activity for children.

The Projects Division is hoping for positive news from the two grantors sometime between July and August. The Tinian Children's Park will be opened to the public once the installation of new activities/facilities and the renovation of the bathrooms/changing rooms are complete. The team is anticipating the ribbon-cutting of the park this summer if all goes as planned, without any interruption or delay to the project. ***(PR)***

Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Eric Larosh, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, Detail Tinian, works with Kenny Cruz, carpenter supervisor for the Tinian's mayor's office, to finish the concrete base for a jungle gym at the Tinian Children's Park.

U.S. NAVY/ENGINEERING AIDE 2ND CLASS YOHANES NUGUSE

Office hours at BMV, HSO, Firearms and Records

The office hours for CNMI Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Highway Safety Office, and the Firearms and Records are as follows:

Bureau of Motor Vehicles

■ **8am - 11am:** document drop-off for vehicle and/or watercraft registration renewal

■ **8am - 11am:** walk-in for driver's license renewal

■ **8am - 11am:** updated document(s) pick-up

BMV will be accepting incoming documents and will be processing these documents for next-day pick-up.

At this time BMV is still processing documents of those who have expired driver's licenses and vehicle/watercraft registrations during the month of March or earlier. Registrations that have expired beginning April 1, 2020, are asked to await the official announcement when BMV will be able to process those registrations and documents.

To prevent the machines from overheating and to prevent premature machine failure, the BMV office will be processing a maximum of fifty driver's license prints per day.

For more information related to BMV, call 664-9066.

Highway Safety Office

■ **9am – 12pm:** for walk-in services

For all inquiries related to the Child Restraint Purchase Assistance Program and the Highway Safety Office call 664-9121 /9125 or /9131.

Firearms and Records office

■ **9am – 3pm:** for walk-in services

For all inquires related to the DPS Firearms and Records office call 664-9072.

All individuals who are looking to visit the offices and avail of the services are required to wear a mask and maintain the standard 6-foot feet distance while lining up outside the offices and while around other individuals.

We ask individuals to make payments at CNMI Treasury on Capital Hill or Revenue and Tax in Dandan before turning in documents, as the BMV cashiers window will be closed. ***(PR)***

THINGS TO KNOW

As of May 18, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

New hours for CUC Customer Center

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public of its new business hours for the CUC Customer Center. The center will be open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 3pm to assist customers with their CUC accounts and/or payment to CUC/ prepaid load purchase.

Customers are also encouraged to use the following options for CUC bill payments:

■ For online payments, log into www.cucgov.org

■ For pay-by-phone, dial 1-855-729-2282

■ Other locations for CUC bill payment: Bank of Saipan, Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii

For emergencies, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) and monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates.

OVR resumes normal office hours

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's office hours have resumed back to Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Modified VR services during the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be in effect. Individuals needing to apply for OVR services are still encouraged to reach out to OVR via phone at (670) 322-6537 / 6538. A staff member will provide further information on our modified processes.

If you have access to the internet and would like more information, visit www.ovrgov.net to view OVR requirements. If you do not have access to the internet, inform our offices and an information/ referral/orientation packet will be mailed to you.

BECQ announces updated hours of operation

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality has announced that they are now providing services to the public from Monday to Friday, 9am – 3pm, during the current government shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

BECQ will be practicing social distancing and safety measures for the protection of their visitors and staff. The designated visitor's entrance will be the BECQ main entrance and visitors parking will be in the front of the BECQ building. For details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com

FAQs: Employee Retention Credit under the CARES Act

The Employee Retention Credit under the CARES Act encourages businesses to keep employees on their payroll. The refundable tax credit is 50% of up to $10,000 in wages paid by an eligible employer whose business has been financially impacted by COVID-19. For details, go to https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-employee-retention-credit-under-the-cares-act.

Updated Government Resource listing

The CNMI government has issued an updated government resource listing as of May 11, 2020, which includes all government offices and agencies that are still operational and offering services to the public during the governor's public health emergency. See Page 10 of today's *Saipan Tribune*. For additional details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

How Trump admin is supporting the CNMI

The Trump administration outlines how it is supporting the people of the CNMI in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. For details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

USDA outlines telehealth service changes

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issues a summary of key service changes to increase the use of telehealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include allowing rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers to serve as "distant site" providers, increasing the types of services that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services can deliver via telehealth, and allowing certain telehealth services to be delivered to Medicare recipients by phone. For details, go to https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/289d418.

USDA RD takes steps to help

USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Visit www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus for more information. Or click on https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/2894700.

SBA Fact Sheet

The U.S. Small Business Administration has issued a "Fact Sheet for the CNMI" about the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans. Read it by clicking on the link at www.saipantribune.com.

Commerce Department in operation

The CNMI Department of Commerce will continue to provide services to the CNMI business community via means of teleworking.

For direct support and services, the CNMI is advised to contact the support team via the department's website at info@commerce.gov.mp and indicate the attention to the respective division or section for the appropriate services. See DOC advisory at the link at www.saipantribune.com.

FBI alert vs online scams

FBI issue an alert to the public to be on the lookout for scams that exploit the current COVID-19 pandemic. See FBI advisory at the link on www.saipantribune.com.

Process for mass testing

Mass testing for COVID-19 is ongoing at the Saipan International Airport. The test is free. People interested in being tested for COVID-19 can request for an appointment for specimen collection on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. website at https://chcc.gov.mp/covid19testing.php or over the phone through the COVID-19 Info Line. For more information, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

Lions Club donates packages to CNMI's front-liners

The Saipan Alliance Lions Club recently donated 98 care packages to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, two agencies that are at the forefront in the fight to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic on the islands.

The packages were made up of healthy snacks likes oranges, apples, bananas, rice crackers, energy bars, ship biscuits, and bottles of water.

"Our front-liners are risking their lives for all of us and our club decided to bring some healthy snacks for them as a small token," said Club president Danny Robles, adding that Bhiya Canadalla, who is Saipan Alliance Lions Club vice president, initiated the donation of care packages to CHCC and DFEMS staff.

"Kindness really matters and we are thankful that we have the opportunity to help and assist in our own little way and I hope that this global pandemic will be over soon," said Lions Club Zone chair Al Cabael.

The care package drop-off was headed by Cabael, president-elect Anna Cabael, club secretary Donna Fronda, and members Len Angello, Dhorie Broncano, and Region 2 chair Lion Annamae Adaza. The club said the donors for these care packages were C&R Corp., Kauila Enterprises, and some club members.

Other Lions Clubs have also been handing out care packages throughout the community, especially to those who are unemployed and have been furloughed from their jobs.

To learn more about Lions Clubs, call Robles at 287-5374, Fronda at 285-5180, or visit the website, www.lionsclubs.org. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

Friends of CWs donate care packages anew

The group Friends of CWs held their fourth distribution of care packages last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park's Roundhouse, giving away 161 care packages that included rice, canned goods, butane, toilet tissue, noodles, and coffee.

Volunteer Alma Basilgo thanked the sponsors for their donations and assistance for the donations, which benefited foreign workers in the CNMI who are unemployed and have been furloughed during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Friends of CWs has been donating to that particular segment of the population since many are ineligible for food stamp assistance. According to Basilgo, they have already assisted about 400 individuals in the last couple of weeks.

One of the volunteers mentioned that this has been their fourth distribution on Saipan and would like to move on and help CW workers on Rota and Tinian. "We want to cover as much as we can but it will also depend on funding," she added.

Friends of CW has managed to get donors for Rota's care package distribution. They are looking to give out packages to about 200 individuals from the list supplied by the U.S. Department of Labor.

One of the contract workers who received care packages last Saturday said, "I am very thankful that they are helping us contract workers. It is really such a big help during these times."

Friends of CW are still open for donations or sponsors for Rota that will be the next care package distribution. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

The group Friends of CWs held their fourth distribution of care packages last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park's Roundhouse.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Work with the world on vaccine development

On May 4, world leaders gathered for a virtual vaccine summit.

Most of America's allies took part in the donor event organized by the European Union. Some nongovernmental organizations participated, too, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Overall, about $8 billion—and a sense of solidarity—was raised.

The United States was a no-show.

It is true, as Trump administration officials stressed in an off-the-record briefing with Washington reporters (which is telling in itself), that America is a significant and generous contributor to global health efforts (until it is not, as seen in the decision to suspend World Health Organization funding). But it is counterproductive, from a health and geopolitical perspective, that the U.S. has abdicated its global leadership position on the most significant crisis since World War II.

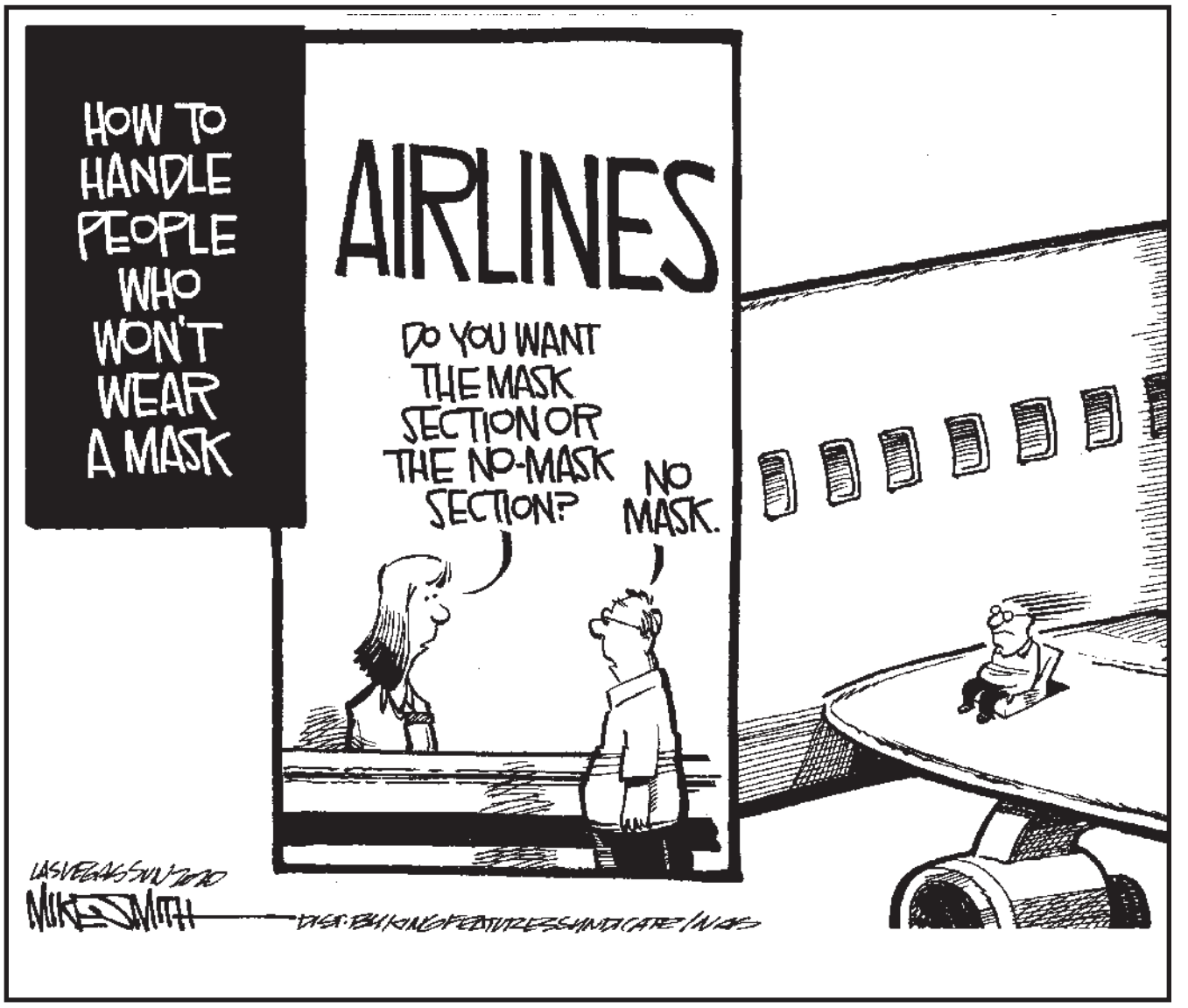
"The more we pull together and share our expertise, the faster our scientists will succeed," said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, channeling the can-do spirit of the summit.

Pulling together is key to accelerate vaccine development that can saves lives, and livelihoods, worldwide. "Almost every major advance that the scientific community has made in a number of areas, not just COVID-19, has relied on international collaboration—it's so critically important," Dr. Timothy Schacker, vice dean for research at the medical school at the University of Minnesota, told an editorial writer.

"That position of keeping the United States away from that kind of collaboration is likely to impede the speed in which things can get done," Schacker said. "The best idea could emerge from anywhere in the world, but it's going to take a lot of countries to take that idea forward."

This collection of countries has historically been led by the U.S. through military, diplomatic, economic or medical responses to transnational challenges, including health crises like Ebola and AIDS. But the Trump administration has consistently conceded this leadership to others, and even questioned some of the very alliances and international institutions America helped develop—often to the country's great benefit—in the postwar era.

See VACCINE on next page


HOW TO HANDLE PEOPLE WHO WON'T WEAR A MASK
AIRLINES
DO YOU WANT THE MASK SECTION OR THE NO-MASK SECTION?
NO MASK.
LAS VEGAS SUN
MIKE SMITH
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE / WUS

To mask, or not?

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. *Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.*

In March, when fears about the dearth of medical grade masks for health care professionals were dominating social media discussions, I asked my friend—a physician's assistant in a big East Coast hospital emergency department—if I should put my paltry sewing skills to work making cloth face coverings.

"I appreciate your enthusiasm," she replied, "but we'll all end up with COVID-19 if we wear cloth masks."

She directed me to a study from 2015 in which researchers tested surgical and cloth masks in clinical settings involving high-risk exposure to respiratory infections in Vietnam. Cloth masks, they found, not only resulted in higher rates of infection than surgical masks but also showed higher rates of infection than the control group (which followed standard hospital procedures, including use of surgical, cloth or no masks at all).

It would have made sense if this type of finding was what motivated the surgeon general in February, to tweet, that masks "are NOT effective in preventing general public from catching #Coronavirus"; Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar to suggest that improper mask use could actually spread the virus; and Dr. Anthony Fauci to confidently declare on 60 Minutes, that a mask is not "the perfect protection that people think that it is," and that unless you are sick, "right now, there is no reason to be walking around with a mask."

But it wasn't.

Public health officials later conceded that their initial guidance to the public regarding masks was not motivated by cutting edge research so much as the need to dissuade the public from siphoning them away from healthcare workers, which, of course, was a legitimate need.

So when those officials abruptly did an about-face just weeks later and began encouraging the public to wear homemade cloth face coverings, even those made from a variety of common household items—T-shirts, bandannas, rubber bands—for their safety and that of others, they had to assume the public would suffer from cognitive dissonance or even begin to question their credibility.

In fairness, understanding of the virus is quickly evolving.

Because doctors and scientists now suspect that people infected but not exhibiting symptoms may be responsible for as much as half of new cases, there is reason to believe that increased mask usage might reduce the spread.

Researchers and academics are pointing to countries such as South Korea and Japan, where mask use is nearly universal and the outbreaks have been more controlled, as evidence that mask culture could have similar quantifiable value in the U.S.

A study from Yale University estimates each additional cloth mask worn by the public has an economic value of at least $3,000-$6,000.

Another very aspirational model argues that "just 60% of people wearing masks that are 60% effective could, by itself, stop the epidemic." That would be something.

Of course, nearly every study that promotes masks acknowledges that they must be used properly to be effective (fit correctly, washed frequently, removed the right way), and emphasizes that mask-wearing is only one strategy, not a solution in and of itself.

Unfortunately, failure to clearly and honestly communicate the benefits and limitations of masks early on—to instead use mask guidance as an opportunity to manipulate people's behavior—has had the outcome one might expect: Masks have become a cultural flashpoint. They are a symbol of either independence from or obsequiousness to the government. And it's getting harder to stake out a position beyond those extremes.

There's compelling evidence on both sides of the debate: models that suggest masking at 80-90% of the population could eventually help eliminate the disease; and research that indicates how COVID-19 breaks through to the external surface of masks when infected patients cough into them. Both deserve consideration and sound assessment from a reliable arbiter.

But when it comes to discussions of mask policies and behavior in the U.S., the opportunity to have reasonable debate seems to have eluded us. People are dug in. And frankly, we have our trusted public officials and their muddled messages on masks, to thank for that.

As they say on Twitter, great job everyone.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Powers of attorney: What you need to know

I see many misconceptions about powers of attorney, or POAs. Some of that is my profession's fault because too many of us seem allergic to writing in plain English. Whatever the reason for that, the result is that a legion of POAs contain so much legalese that few people born after 1850 can comfortably read them. Hopefully this article will dispel some of the confusion.

Let's begin with when POAs are useful. The most common scenarios generally relate to real-estate transactions and estate planning.

For example, let's say you live in Idaho but own property on Tinian. If you want to lease that property to someone, you could market the property, talk with interested lessees, sign the ground lease, and pay the withholding tax. But more commonly, it's easier for you to pick someone living near the property to do those things on your behalf. If so, frequently you will also want to write a POA giving limited authority to your agent (who is called your "attorney-in-fact").

Or let's imagine that you came down with Alzheimer, fell into a coma following a stroke, or simply became slower with age. In each of those cases, you may want to pre-select a person who can make financial and medical decisions for you. If you don't, you run the risk that a court will have to appoint someone—usually after significant delays and legal fees have accrued.

Now that we know some of the common scenarios, let's dive a little deeper into four types of POAs.

First is the General POA. This type of POA grants extensive authority to your agent. In fact, in many cases they have the authority to do almost anything that you could do. For instance, they could open a bank account for you—or withdraw money from your current one. Because of the nearly unlimited power bestowed by a General POA, you should rarely use them and never appoint someone that you don't trust completely.

Second is the Special POA or, for people who prefer modern English, a Limited POA. This type of POA specifically spells out what an agent may do. If a power is not stated, then your agent can't do it. These restrictions make Limited POAs far safer and usually the best choice if you need someone to act on your behalf for a real-estate transaction or some other business dealing.

Third is a Durable Power of Attorney. Here, the key word is "durable," which means that the POA will remain in effect even if you become incapacitated (i.e., if you go into a coma or lose your marbles). Having a Durable POA covering medical and financial decisions (i.e., a Medical POA and a Financial POA) is an essential component of estate planning.

Fourth is a Springing Durable Power of Attorney. This time the focus is on "springing," which identifies when the POA will take effect. In other words, a POA can take effect as soon as it is signed or after some pre-defined event. Most POAs take effect immediately. But if you have a Medical POA, a Financial POA, or both as part of your estate plan, then you normally don't want those documents to take effect unless you become incapacitated. That's where the concept of springing comes in handy. It allows for the estate-planning POAs to lie dormant until you become incapacitated, at which point they spring to life in time for your agent to make key decisions for you.

Now that we know the major types, let's answer three common questions.

Do other people have to accept a valid POA? Surprisingly not. Other people, companies, and government agencies may rely on a properly executed POA. And they usually do. But not always. Banks, in particular, can be persnickety. For example, they may reject a POA if it contains unfamiliar language or was not created using that bank's particular POA template. So, it often pays to double check in advance if the other party will accept your POA. Otherwise, you may run into unwelcome delays or worse.

FINE PRINT

By JORDAN SUNDELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real-estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!

Does a POA need to be notarized? Usually not. But it's generally a good idea, especially for real-estate transactions. There are two reasons for that. One: It reduces the risk that your signature was forged, meaning that other parties are more likely to honor the POA. And two: Only notarized documents can be recorded at the Recorder's Office, which can be helpful in some circumstances.

Finally, does a POA have an expiration date? In theory, no. But in practice, yes, because most people won't accept a POA that's several years old. Either way though, you should never leave people guessing about the POA's end date. The POA should say when it will end (or state that it won't). And if you plan for the POA to last for many years, you may want to re-execute it every couple of years to reduce the chances of other people rejecting it due to age.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

Pandemic, then and now

Four and a half months into the year of the killer virus, it is disheartening to realize we are making the same mistakes in dealing with one of history's worst pandemics that we made in 1918, 102 years ago.

During the Great Influenza, President Woodrow Wilson, immersed in fighting World War I, ignored the disease as he created a mammoth war bureaucracy. Even as influenza's death toll climbed into the hundreds of thousands, he cheer-led for the nation to fight—Germans, not the virus. He himself contracted influenza, resulting in lasting damage to his health and bad decisions that soon put the world at war again.

Today, Donald Trump has been "cheerleading" for the economy, refusing to admit the severity of the crisis, purposefully exacerbating tensions with China, pushing business to reopen too soon, promoting ridiculous conspiracy theories and lying about testing.

In 1918, the New York Public Health Department, once the best in the world, was taken over by political hacks, who muffed the chance to contain the virus epicenter. The U.S. Public Health Service also was marked by ineffective leadership, disrespected by serious scientists.

Today, the highly reputed Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been sidelined. No briefings. Its guidelines for reopening the economy delayed and disparaged. Its scientists ignored because of a mandate for loyalty to an uninformed president, more worried about reelection than mounting deaths.

Then, as now, there was an unenforced national quarantine, each locality left to act on its own. Then, as now, governors and mayors begged Washington for help and received almost nothing. Then, as now, leaders lied and lost trust. Then, as now, the virus manifested in horrible, perplexing ways.

The numbers of influenza cases and deaths were vastly underreported; at least 50 million people died worldwide, 675,000 out of 105 million Americans. Thousands died alone. Political leaders ridiculed the idea of a second or third wave.

Then, as now, there was initial scoffing that the virus was worse than the normal flu, its frightening contagiousness and lethality denied. Fake treatments were rampant.

Then, as now, service members were packed into congested areas, spreading the disease. Officers who tried to protect them were demoted. Despite the dangers, troops continued to be shipped to Europe to fight, all too often dying before they reached the battlefield. The author of "The Great Influenza," John M. Barry, called the troopships "death ships" and "floating caskets."

In March, a Navy aircraft carrier commander warned his sailors were in danger. He was relieved of command; hundreds got sick, as did he. COVID-19 has invaded the White House. Trump, refusing to wear a mask, asked to meet World War II veterans. "You didn't worry about me, you only worried about them," Trump complained when asked about the potential danger to the old soldiers.

With thousands more dying, Trump repeatedly insisted the virus would "just disappear," without a vaccine. "We'll never see it again." Scientifically impossible.

Vice President Mike Pence declared in late April, "I think honestly, if you look at the trends today, by Memorial Day weekend we will have this coronavirus epidemic behind us." Not happening.

Then, as now, it was often too late to help. Walking and talking victims, seemingly on the mend, fell dead minutes later.

By ANN MCFEATTERS
Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.

Then, as now, the virus destroyed the lung, heart or kidneys and killed not just the elderly and vulnerable but also healthy young adults. The medical establishment was overwhelmed, frustrated and at risk. Children, then as now, seemed fine and later developed serious health complications.

Then, private nurses were kidnapped and held hostage. Now, medical personnel are held hostage to a lack of medical supplies and an unyielding sense of duty.

Doctors' warnings went unheeded in 1918. Today, "It's a horrible thing to think we could have done something, and we didn't," mourned Dr. Rick Bright after weeks of political inaction. He headed the agency trying to find a COVID-19 vaccine. Then he was fired for disputing Trump's false insistence that a drug unproven to fight the virus be funded with millions of taxpayer dollars.

Barry, remarkable historian of the 1918 pandemic, concluded after seven years of research into its horror and terror: If there is a single dominant lesson from 1918, it's that governments need to tell the truth in a crisis. You don't manage the truth. You tell the truth."

VACCINE

From Page 8

The administration's stance "reinforces the perception that the United States is not interested in working with others to tackle global challenges," Richard Haass, president of the Council of Foreign Relations, told an editorial writer. Haass, a former diplomat who is the author of "The World: A Brief Introduction," among other books about foreign policy, added that the administration's stance has potential health ramifications, too. "It probably slows down the search for a potential vaccine because there is not the pooling of resources that there could or should be," Haas said. "And if it turns out an effective vaccine were to emerge from this effort it disadvantages the U.S. because others would claim they deserve to take care of their citizens first."

A vaccine, by definition, is preventive. One is needed, of course, for the virus. But there's also a need for a geopolitical vaccine to prevent a loss of international coordination and common purpose. It's not too late for President Donald Trump to rise to the gravity of the crisis and position the country to provide leadership in both pursuits.

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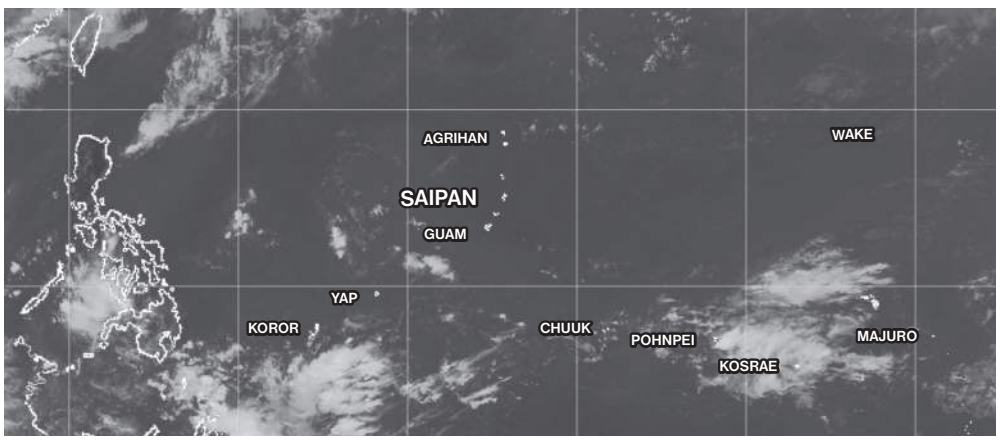
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89° 79°	88° 78°	89° 79°	90° 79°	90° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:26 AM, MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers and east trade-winds prevail across the Marianas this morning. A dry weather pattern is expected through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	59° / 48°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	84° / 57°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 73°
London	Mostly Sunny	77° / 55°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
New York	Partly Cloudy	66° / 50°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	70° / 59°
Paris	Sunny	77° / 54°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Salem	Thunderstorms	80° / 59°
San Francisco	Windy	60° / 51°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Tokyo	Showers	70° / 55°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	69° / 51°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:27 AM	3:51 PM	-
Wednesday	4:02 AM	4:38 PM	-
Thursday	4:39 AM	5:26 PM	-
Friday	5:17 AM	6:16 PM	-
Saturday	5:59 AM	7:08 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:27 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.90
12:15 PM	LOW TIDE	0.56
6:23 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.67
11:56 PM	LOW TIDE	0.92

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 1 (MAY 11, 2020)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
- ***Cashier & Customer Service***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4282
  Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org or via phone by calling toll free Tel: 1-(855)-729-2282

CNMI State Medicaid Agency
- ***Eligibility Office & Accounting / Claims***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
  Still accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal/ redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp

Department of Labor
- ***Assistance with Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) programs call:***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 670-989-9090 / 9084 / 9081 / 9089 / 9083 / 9080
  Email: info@puamarianas.com
  Website: marianaslabor.net

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- *Available via phone or email only on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from*
  9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
  Email: maryann@ovrgov.net

Department of Public Works
- ***Administrative Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 235-9570 / 5818
- ***Building Safety Code Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-2726 / 2296
- ***Energy Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 664-4480 / 4481
- ***Technical Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9828 / 9838
- ***Roads and Grounds Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 322-9498
- ***Solid Waste Management Division***
  - ***Lower Base Transfer Station & Marpi Landfill***
    Open all week except Wednesday
    7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 322-2745

Dept. of Land and Natural Resources
- ***Division of Land Registration***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-9987
- ***Division of Agriculture***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 256-3320
- ***Division of Fish & Wildlife***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-6000

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 2 (MAY 11, 2020)

Department of Finance
- ***Division of Revenue & Taxation***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-1000
- ***ALL OTHER DIVISIONS (Except Customs)***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
- ***Division of Customs Services***
  - ***Airport:*** OPEN DAILY
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Seaport:*** Monday - Friday
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Chalan Kanoa Post Office:***
    Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
    Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Department of Public Lands
- Cashier Window
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54
  For Appointments Call (670) 234-3751 or email dpl@dpl.gov.

Saipan Zoning Office
- *Available via phone only*
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9661/2/3
  Email: yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp

Office of the Attorney General
- ***Civil & Criminal Divisions***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 237-7500 / 7600

Department of Public Safety
- ***Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV)***
  - ***Document Drop-Off For Vehicle / Watercraft Registration Renewal***
    Monday - Thursday
    9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 664-9068
  - ***Document Drop-Off / Pick-up Drivers License***
    Monday - Thursday
    9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 664-9066
- ***Firearms and Records***
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (For Walk-Ins)
  Tel: (670) 664-9072
- ***Highway Safety Office***
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9121 / 9125 / 9131

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- ***Fire Enforcement Office***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9178

Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs
- Monday – Friday
  7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 488-0220 / 0440
  Email: 0550glenna.reyes@gov.mp

Office of the Public Defender
- Monday - Friday
  9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-6503

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Business

BEA CABRERA
Carnitas tacos is one of Loco & Tacos' bestselling $1 tacos.

BEA CABRERA
Loco & Taco has been in business since 2002 and located along Beach Road and Garapan.

BEA CABRERA
Loco & Taco owner Sungnam Lee said that their restaurant is practicing health and safety standards and enforces social distancing when customers pick-up orders.

$1 tacos are back at Loco & Taco

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Scrumptious, colorful, and always inviting dollar tacos are back at Loco & Taco located across Paseo De Marianas in Garapan. Since they reopened last week, different fillings for different days awaits you—carnitas, chicken, fish, and, for vegetarians, soy chorizo that goes with sour cream, fresh guacamole, spices, lemon, and cilantro.

Owner Sungnam Lee trained and studied how to prepare and cook authentic Mexican food in Mexico and brought it to Saipan. "Aside from the tacos, we also serve our regular menu that includes beef and chicken quesadilla, taco salad, nachos, mochiko chicken, garlic steak and shrimp, ahi tuna steak, oxtail soup, guacamole burger, and many more," he said.

"The flavor in Mexican dishes is just a product of a long and careful process. The process includes 'love' and this produces patience because Mexican food takes time. This is the same process we have here at Loco & Taco."

Due to COVID-19 concerns, Loco & Taco was one of the many restaurants that ceased operations. "We closed last March 18 and re-opened last May 9 and the reason for closing was that we did not know how to manage operating a business in this pandemic. It was all new and everyone was trying to be careful for everyone's safety," Lee said.

Lee continued that his experience in Mexico allowed him to bring the authentic taste of the country back to Saipan.

"After two months, I noticed that supermarkets, groceries, and restaurants have managed to put up their own safety procedures and modifications and we learned so many things. Now that we reopened, we put up our own safety and health procedures for employees and customers… we also got inspiration that on the first week of May, we did not have new COVID-19 cases and thought the government had everything under control," Lee added.

Lee said that when the reopened, the response from his customers were encouraging "Some said 'amen!' and others said 'congratulations.' These are truly great because my employees and I believe we have to move toward a positive direction during this pandemic."

Loco & Taco is open for take-out only everyday, 11am-6pm. For more information, call (670) 233-5233 or go to their Facebook page: Loco & Taco or website: http://locoandtaco.favy.jp.

Powell: Recovery may begin by summer, will likely be slow

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell expressed optimism Sunday that the U.S. economy can begin to recover from a devastating recession in the second half of the year, assuming the coronavirus doesn't erupt in a second wave. But he suggested that a full recovery won't likely be possible before the arrival of a vaccine.

In an interview with CBS's "60 Minutes," Powell noted that the economy was fundamentally healthy before the virus struck suddenly and forced widespread business shutdowns and tens of millions of layoffs. Once the outbreak has been contained, he said, the economy should be able to rebound "substantially."

Powell offered an overall positive message while warning that it would take much longer for the economy to regain its health than it took for it to collapse with stunning speed.

"In the long run, and even in the medium run," the chairman said, "you wouldn't want to bet against the American economy. This economy will recover. And that means people will go back to work. Unemployment will get back down. We'll get through this."

Powell pointed out that the downturn wasn't a result of deep-seated financial instabilities, like the housing meltdown and the excessive risk-taking among banks that ignited the Great Recession. Rather, it resulted from an external event—a pandemic—that required a shutdown of the economy. That may mean, he said, that "we can get back to a healthy economy fairly quickly."

In the meantime, though, American workers are enduring their worst crisis in decades. More than 36 million people have applied for unemployment benefits in the two months since the coronavirus first forced businesses to close down and shrink their workforces. The unemployment rate, at 14.7%, is the highest since the Great Depression, and is widely expected to go much higher.

In the interview with CBS, Powell played down comparisons to the Depression. While acknowledging that unemployment could peak near the Depression high of 25%, he noted that U.S. banks are far healthier now and that the Fed and other central banks are much more able and willing to intervene to bolster economies than they were in the 1930s.

Japan's growth drops amid pandemic, worse times likely ahead

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's economic growth plunged into recession in the first quarter as the coronavirus pandemic squelched production, exports and spending, and fears are growing worse times may lie ahead.

The Cabinet Office reported Monday a drop of 3.4% annual pace in seasonally adjusted real gross domestic product, or GDP, the total value of a nation's goods and services, for the January-March period, compared to the previous quarter.

The annual pace gives what the rate would be when continued for a year. For just the quarter, the drop was 0.9%.

Exports dived 21.8%. Private residential investments slipped nearly 17%, and household consumption edged down 3.1%.

Analysts say things are expected to get worse, as the world's third-largest economy undergoes its biggest challenge since World War II.

Japan is in a technical recession, defined as two quarters straight of contraction, as its economy contracted 1.9% in October-December. It remained flat July-September, and eked out 0.5% growth for April-June, according to the latest numbers.

Japan is extremely valuable to the economic damage from the ongoing outbreak. It is dependent on trade with both China and the U.S., the country where the pandemic began and the country where it has been hit hardest.

Travel, tourism and trade with those countries and others have faded.

Manufacturers that are pillars of Japan's economy, such as Toyota Motor Corp., have reported dismal financial results results. Some companies were unable to provide forecasts for this fiscal year. Profitability is nose-diving as people hold back on buying. Production at some plants have halted.

The government has come up with a rescue package of nearly 108 trillion yen ($1 trillion), and is announcing more, including aid to small businesses and cash handouts.

Japan has seen more than 16,000 people infected with the virus and more than 700 deaths, but those numbers are relatively low given it has the world's oldest population.

Japan eased its state of emergency last week for most of the country, though hot spots like Tokyo are maintaining restrictions. While many places are starting to reopen, normal operations and a recovery in consumption are not expected anytime soon.

Robert Carnell, regional head of research Asia-Pacific at ING, said the damage to the private sector will continue, even as public demand picks up, helped by government aid.

"So even though the state of emergency has been criticized as being a halfhearted response to the pandemic, compared with many other nations, it has still resulted in a substantial reduction in economic activity, and will weigh on growth," he said.

Nation

Hundreds demand justice for Arbery at Georgia rally

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP)—Justice for Ahmaud Arbery, a black man killed during a pursuit by a white man and his son in Georgia, isn't just prison time for his killers—it's changes in a local justice system that never charged them with a crime, rallygoers said Saturday.

Hundreds of people came to the Glynn County courthouse demanding accountability for a case in which charges weren't filed until state officials stepped in after a leaked video sparked national outrage.

Arbery, 25, was killed Feb. 23 just outside the port city of Brunswick. Gregory McMichael, 64, told police he and his son, Travis McMichael, 34, pursued Arbery because they believed he was responsible for recent break-ins in the neighborhood.

The McMichaels weren't arrested and charged with murder until May 7, after a video of the shooting was publicly released to a local radio station and less than 48 hours after state agents took over the case.

"Justice for Ahmaud is more than just the arrests of his killers," said John Perry, president of the Brunswick NAACP chapter at the Saturday rally. "Justice is saying that we've got to clean up the house of Glynn County."

Speakers at the rally demanded the resignation of Jackie Johnson, the district attorney for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit who recused herself from the investigation, and George Barnhill, the Waycross circuit district attorney who took over the case and declined to press charges. Gregory McMichael was an investigator in Johnson's office before retiring last May. Both Johnson and Barnhill have denied wrongdoing.

Organizers of the rally said around 250 vehicles drove more than four hours from Atlanta for the rally, bringing historically black fraternities and sororities, civil rights organizations and black-led gun rights groups, who said if Arbery had armed himself, he might be alive today.

Attorney Mawuli Davis came from his suburban Atlanta home because he wanted to make it clear how many people are not satisfied with how the Arbery case has been handled.

"Georgians are just not safe when you allow an injustice like this to take place," said Davis, who is an organizer with the Black Man Lab in Decatur, Georgia.

The case has brought reminders of several other black people killed in confrontations with white police officers or others and the names of Trayvon Martin, Sandra Bland and others were mentioned during the rally.

"We're going to keep on marching. We're going to stand in solidarity. We're going to keep on protesting. We're going to keep on raising our voices because Ahmaud Arbery will get justice," said Triana Arnold James, president of the Georgia chapter of the National Organization for Women.

AP

Malik Muhammad, center, joins a group of people marching from the Glynn County Courthouse in downtown to a police station after a rally to protest the shooting of Ahmaud Arbery, Saturday, May 16, 2020, in Brunswick, Ga.

Organizers asked the crowd to wear masks and stay a safe distance apart because of COVID-19. There were plenty of masks—some with Arbery's picture—but many in the crowd were shoulder to shoulder for the rally and marched with arms locked after it was over.

Arbery family attorneys have said he's the person recorded inside a house under construction right before he was killed. Gregory McMichael told police he suspected Arbery was responsible for recent break-ins and he also said Arbery attacked his son before he was shot.

Churches may reopen, but many services won't have singing

(RNS)—They are words the Rev. John Witvliet, an expert on Christian worship, never thought he would hear himself say.

"Based on the science that we are learning about this week, we are urging and I am personally urging extreme caution," said Witvliet, director of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in a Wednesday (May 13) interview.

"Singing together in congregations is a practice that we dearly love and are eager to promote, but loving our neighbor is job one here and so the time for fasting from this wonderful practice may be longer than any of us would like."

His unprecedented words of warning come as religious leaders have received jarring predictions from scientists well-versed in virology as well as vocal practices. Webinars, videos and texts are circulating across the globe as scientists reveal their studies, and clergy must consider what to do with the results of those reports. Some church leaders aren't yet sure what to do when they reopen, others are designing multiphase plans, and still others are moving ahead with their traditional practices of praise.

But, more than halfway across the country, Dr. Howard Leibrand, public health officer for Skagit County, Washington, appears to be in Witvliet's amen corner.

"I would recommend that until we get a vaccine, we don't do congregational singing," he said, adding that it is "the safest recommendation."

This content is written and produced by Religion News Service and distributed by The Associated Press. RNS and AP partner on some religion news content. RNS is solely responsible for this story.

Leibrand was one of the investigators of the coronavirus outbreak that spread through a local chorale that had been meeting in a Presbyterian church. He is an author of a report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that tracked the 61 people who attended the March 10 rehearsal with one symptomatic person. The report found that 87% of the group was confirmed to have COVID-19. Three members were hospitalized, and two of them died.

The report noted that, in addition to sitting next to each other, snack sharing, and stacking chairs after the rehearsal, the singing by chorale members could have led to infection via the transmitting of droplets.

"The act of singing, itself, might have contributed to transmission through emission of aerosols, which is affected by loudness of vocalization," it says.

Leibrand, a congregational singer and a member of a nondenominational church that meets in homes, said that even though the chorale was not specifically a church choir, "I think it has some cross-utility for making predictions about what would happen in a church choir, too."

When the Rev. Leslie Callahan of Philadelphia's St. Paul's Church met via Zoom with her deacons on Tuesday, one of the top concerns they discussed was whether there would be singing when they reopen. She had read articles, including about the infected chorale. She had also viewed the much-shared webinar hosted by singing associations where an otolaryngologist posited that it could be 18 to 24 months before group singing makes scientific sense.

"It doesn't sound like singing is safe, especially not congregational singing, which is from my perspective a really important feature of worship," Callahan said. "Singing together is a big deal. In fact, not having a handle on this may make me postpone when we start to worship together again."

US Sen. Sasse criticized for jokes in graduation speech

FREMONT, Neb. (AP)—U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse's attempt at humor during a speech at a Nebraska high school's online commencement—which included jokes about students' fitness and psychologists and also blamed China for the coronavirus outbreak—drew strong criticism.

The Republican senator's speech on Saturday was panned by a Fremont High School board member and his Democratic opponent in the November election. Sasse's spokesman, James Wegmann, told the Omaha World-Herald Sunday the senator was joking during the graduation speech.

Sasse said during the speech "95% of all gainfully employed psychologists—and I'm serious there are dozens of them that are gainfully employed —- their job is really just to help people forget high school ... If you're headed to college, do not—do not—major in psychology. That part's not a joke."

Sasse, who was unshaven and wore a loosened red tie and white dress shirt, also said that in life, the graduates would at times be asked to climb giant ropes. "If you don't get that joke, talk to your mom and dad. Back in the day when we were a lot fitter than you people are, we used to have to climb ropes all the way up to the ceiling of the gym all the time."

Sasse suggested that the graduates would remember their senior years at their future reunions as "that time when China started a big global pandemic that created the worst public health crisis in over a century and brought the economy to its knees and we had to stay home and everybody was hoarding toilet paper."

Near the end of the speech, Sasse mixed in some serious encouragement for students with another shot at China.

"Nobody knows exactly how we're going to beat this thing, but you know what, we're Americans, we're Nebraskans, we've got grit and we're going to beat this thing," he said. "We will bring the economy back. We are going to beat the virus ... We're going to have to have a serious reckoning with the thugs in China who let this mess spiral out of control by lying about it." he said.

Fremont school board member Michael Petersen called on Sasse to apologize. On his public Facebook page, Petersen said, "You deserved better than the graduation remarks from Senator Ben Sasse. The racism, implying that our graduates are fat and lazy, disparaging teachers, and attacking the mental health profession are despicable."

World

US, European leaders weigh reopening risks without vaccine

NEW YORK (AP)—On a weekend when many pandemic-weary people emerged from weeks of lockdown, leaders in the U.S. and Europe weighed the risks and rewards of lifting COVID-19 restrictions knowing that a vaccine could take years to develop.

In separate stark warnings, two major European leaders bluntly told their citizens that the world needs to adapt to living with the coronavirus and cannot wait to be saved by a vaccine.

"We are confronting this risk, and we need to accept it, otherwise we would never be able to relaunch," Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said, acceding to a push by regional leaders to allow restaurants, bars and beach facilities to open Monday, weeks ahead of an earlier timetable.

The warnings from Conte and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson came as governments worldwide and many U.S. states struggled with restarting economies blindsided by the pandemic. In the U.S., images of crowded bars, beaches and boardwalks suggested some weren't heeding warnings to safely enjoy reopened spaces while limiting the risks of spreading infection.

Britain's Johnson, who was hospitalized last month with a serious bout of COVID-19, speculated Sunday that a vaccine may not be developed at all, despite the huge global effort to produce one.

"There remains a very long way to go, and I must be frank that a vaccine might not come to fruition," Johnson wrote in the Mail on Sunday newspaper.

President Donald Trump, by contrast, promised Americans a speedy return to normalcy that sounded far more optimistic than most experts say is realistic.

"We're looking at vaccines, we're looking at cures and we are very, very far down the line," he said while calling into a charity golf tournament broadcast Sunday broadcast on NBC. "I think that's not going to be in the very distant future. But even before that, I think we'll be back to normal."

Trump said events would likely resume with small crowds—if any—but hopes that, by the time the Masters Tournament is played in November, the crowds can return.

Health experts, however, say the world could be months, if not years, away from having a vaccine available to everyone, and they have warned that easing restrictions too quickly could cause the virus to rebound.

With 36 million newly unemployed in the U.S. alone, economic pressures are building even as authorities acknowledge that reopening risks setting off new waves of infections and deaths.

Canadian aerobatic jet crashes amid pandemic show; 1 dead

TORONTO (AP)—A Canadian aerobatic jet crashed into a British Columbia neighborhood Sunday during a flyover intended to boost morale during the pandemic, killing one crew member, seriously injuring another and setting a house on fire. Video appeared to show the plane's crew ejecting.

The crash left debris scattered across the neighborhood near the airport in the city of Kamloops, 260 miles (418 kilometers) northeast of Vancouver. The Snowbirds are Canada's equivalent of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds or U.S. Navy's Blue Angels.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he was "deeply saddened" by the death of Capt. Jennifer Casey, who served as a spokesperson for the Snowbirds, and the injuring of Capt. Richard MacDougall, one of the team's coordinators and pilot of the aircraft who survived landing on the roof of a house.

"For the past two weeks, the Snowbirds have been flying across the country to lift up Canadians during these difficult times." Trudeau said in a statement. "Their flyovers across the country put a smile on the faces of Canadians everywhere and make us proud."

The morale boosting mission is now on indefinite hold and the fleet of Tutor jets has been placed on operational pause.

Video posted to Twitter appears to show two Snowbirds taking off from Kamloops Airport. One of the aircraft subsequently climbed into the sky before rolling over and plunging to the ground. The video appears to show at least one person ejecting from the plane before it disappears behind a stand of trees and an explosion is heard.

A local resident who lives seven houses from the crash site and had been watching the aircraft said he saw "the Snowbird going straight down."

"I saw what looked like a parachute about, say, 20 feet over the house, and it disappeared from sight, and the parachute hadn't fully deployed yet—it was still sort of straight up and down," Kenny Hinds said.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said the cause of the crash is under investigation.

Rose Miller lives directly across the street from where the plane hit. She'd watched the Snowbirds arrive on Saturday, and she went to her front window on Sunday when she heard the roar of jet engines.

Miller said she heard a loud bang and wondered whether it might be a sonic boom. Then she watched the plane smash onto the ground.

"It looked to me like it was mostly on the road, but it just exploded. It went everywhere," she said. "In fact, I got a big, huge piece in my backyard. The cops said it was the ejection seat."

Miller said a couple in their early 70s lives in the home. Both are OK, she said, noting that she'd spoken with them after they were evacuated to a nearby street. The woman had been in the basement while the man was behind the house.

Miller said section of roof on a home on a nearby street has been covered up.

"This accident really shakes us to our core," Kamloops Mayor Ken Christian said. About five houses had to be evacuated.

Operation Inspiration started in Nova Scotia earlier this month and features the team's signature nine-jet formation. It was aimed at boosting morale amid the pandemic.

Marni Capostinsky said she lives across the street from the crash site and was out on the deck when she heard the plane getting closer.

"We ran out under the cover to look and saw something black coming towards us, everyone hit the deck it was so loud," she said.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Froilan "Lang" Cruz Tenorio

BORN TO LIFE ON SEPT 9, 1939 – CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE BY OUR DEAR LORD ON MAY 4, 2020

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: †Albert Camacho Tenorio & †Rita Duenas Cruz
Brothers: †Juan Cruz Tenorio & †Tito Santos
In-Laws: †Joseph S. Kwiatkowski & †Mary C. Kwiatkowski
Sister-in-Law: †Dawn Osteen

His spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Grace Lynn K. Tenorio
Children: Dawn Marie T. Martos (Darian Shane T. Martos, Dylan Jarod T. Martos, Joyia Marie T. Martos, Zackary Darrick T. Martos), Laura Jean Tenorio-Fejeran and Matthew S. Fejeran (Tyler Lang Tenorio, Bryce John DLG Fejeran, Tiana Mahina Grace T. Flores, Brianna Jo T. Fejeran) & Gina Lynn T. and Jesse C. Torres (Peter Wesley Torres, III and Joseph Lang T. Torres)

Aunts: Ana Cruz Cruz & Maria Rios Cruz
Sisters: Francisca C. Tenorio & Dicta C. Tenorio
Brother: Aldebert & Celina A. Concepcion
Sisters-in-Law: Charlene D. Tenorio & Rosario S. Santos
Brothers-in-Law: Joseph and Barbara Kwiatkowski & Larry and Jo Anne Kwiatkowski
Reared Brothers: Jack Q. Castro & Greg Q. Castro

Lang will be missed by numerous family, friends and Godchildren

The Family of †Lang wishes to thank all of you who have expressed their condolences, comforting words and sentiments at this difficult time of their loss. Please know that your kind words will be forever remembered and you will be in their prayers always.

The Family

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

DREW PHILLIPS/HYUNDAI/TNS

The Palisade is Hyundai's three-row SUV that rides high and offers spaciousness, luxury, and plenty of new features.

2020 Hyundai Palisade highlights the softer side of three-row SUVs

By SCOTT STURGIS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

2020 Hyundai Palisade Limited AWD: A new entrant in the three-row race.

Price: $47,605 as tested. Floor mats added $160.

Conventional wisdom: Car and Driver liked the "simple controls, proprietary features, a great value" but not the "wind noise, love it or hate it looks."

Marketer's pitch: "The three-row, upscale SUV."

Reality: A relative bargain for three rows of luxury, but only if fun is optional for you.

What's new: The Palisade is Hyundai's answer to the new Telluride. It's a three-row SUV that rides high and offers spaciousness, luxury, and plenty of new features, and both were new for the 2020 model year, although they made their road debuts early in the cycle.

Unfortunately, the Palisade is missing much of the charm of the Kia cousin.

Up to speed: The straight-line acceleration should make any potential buyer quite happy. The 3.8-liter V-6 creates 291 horsepower and gets to 60 mph in 7.1 seconds, according to Motor Trend. And plenty of power is available for passing and other speed-enhancing maneuvers.

On the road: I've often remarked that Hyundai is the fluffier version of Kia, with softer handling but a smoother ride. But it's been a few years since twin models were this obvious about it.

The Palisade's handling is far inferior to the Telluride. When I hopped in the Telluride, I remember just thinking "Oooooh." It glided over the twists and turns of my home territory with more ease than any three-row SUV had the right to, even before I made any adjustments.

The Palisade, on the other hand, lumbered through those same stretches, bouncing me around and sending me on a desperate quest for the Sport mode. But even that didn't improve the handling noticeably.

In fact, with five drive-mode choices, a perfect blend should be available, but alas it is not. Handling remained adequate at best, and choppy at worst. The Palisade most reminded me of the old Expedition or Sorento.

Shifty: The 8-speed transmission worked pretty quietly under the hood, keeping the momentum. It's operated through a Honda-style series of buttons.

Driver's Seat: The Nappa leather seats included in the Limited trim are kind of firm, and also slippery; when I set the bolster full on to try getting myself comfortable, I could feel myself shifting from corner to corner. But overall the seats were not too bad.

The view of the dashboard was clear, although the steering wheel doesn't telescope as much as I might have liked.

High tech: Among the gizmos are cameras on both sides that show the view of the nearby lane when the turn signal is switched on. The left side of the instrument panel displays the view to the left and to the right. Nice idea; a little hard to see. Turning one's head and looking is still the best solution, but this is a nice additional feature.

Friends and stuff: It's worth noting that the Lovely Mrs. Passenger Seat was not bothered by a hard seat. But, having endured childbirth times four and years of whining times five, she's way hardier than her spouse.

The giant Sturgis Kid 4.0 enjoyed stretching out in the second row of the Palisade, which featured captain's chairs. But when I suggested we stuff all seven family members for a five-block trip to Sturgis Fiance 1.0's birthday dinner, he quickly demurred.

The third-row seat is snug, with little knee room because it sits so close to the floor. But overall, it's not bad for what it is, unless you try cramming three adults back there. Uh-uh.

Cargo space is 85.4 cubic feet with two rows folded; 45.8 with one down; and 18 behind the third row, all fairly healthy, but still little more than half a Sienna.

Play some tunes: The Harmon Kardan premium audio operated pretty easily. Dials control volume and tuning, while a row of buttons gets around main functions.

Keeping warm and cool: The heater controls are mixed into a panel with the traction control, and it all becomes a little overwhelming. Dials control the temperature settings and buttons control the other functions.

Fuel economy: I averaged around 20 mpg in the usual range of Philadelphia region testing, pre-COVID-19. Feed the Palisade whatever.

Where it's built: Ulsan, South Korea.

How it's built: Consumer Reports predicts its reliability to be a four out of five.

In the end: There's a lot to like about the Palisade, but I'd definitely take the Telluride instead.

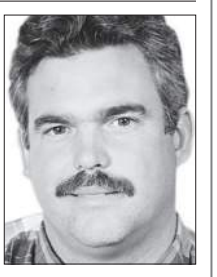
Under the Hood: What all those indicators on the dashboard mean

Q I just bought a nice used car for my 16-year-old daughter to drive. Among all the care and usage recommendations I have given her, the one thing she's most perplexed about are the gauges. Can you please explain them and their importance? Also, any other tips for a new driver to keep her safe and the car in good condition? Thanks!

A Sure! Many vehicles employ instrumentation beyond just vehicle speed and fuel level. Let's look at some of them.

■ Tachometer: This displays engine rotational speed. Most engines idle at perhaps 600-700 revolutions per minute (RPM) and have a maximum of maybe 5000-7000 RPM. An automatic transmission will typically choose an appropriate gear that best meets power requirements while minimizing fuel use. Higher RPM delivers more power, lower RPM promotes fuel economy. It's prudent in most cases to run at the lowest RPM possible that delivers needed performance.

■ Temperature (thermometer symbol): This gauge spans from perhaps 100-260 degrees F. The normal operating temperature of most engines is 195 F, the engine should warm up to this level within a few minutes of driving. Temperature may climb somewhat in traffic between cooling fan cycles, or climbing long grades. A reading of 225 F would catch my attention, if it drops back down after a given condition, it's not a concern. Above 240 is of high concern, and damage may occur at 260 F. One should keep in mind that overheating an engine can be very destructive, and should be avoided at all costs. An engine that runs too cool should also be checked, but this is of much lower concern.



By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

■ Oil Pressure (oil can symbol): Like blood pressure, this metric is vitally important, but in this case a higher reading is better! Typical readings vary from perhaps 15-20 PSI (pounds per square inch) at idle to about 40-70 PSI at higher engine speeds. Pressure is typically higher when the oil is cool/thick and drops somewhat when warm/hot. If the engine is filled to the proper level and oil is checked and changed regularly, an oil pressure fault (low or 0) is incredibly rare.

■ Voltage (battery symbol): This displays the status of the charging system/battery team, and higher is better—to a point. Key-on/engine-off, one will see about 12.6 volts, a charged and static battery. A typical running voltage is 14.5 volts (charging is ongoing and successful). At idle with many accessories functioning, this may dip a bit. The most likely fault one might see (perhaps a vehicle with 150K miles or so) is voltage dropping to just battery (12ish) while driving (charging is not occurring). Head for home right away with reduced accessories used!

How often should gauges be checked? Ideally a quick visual sweep of all gauges every few moments is best. Or at minimum, an occasional peek when climbing hills (temperature). Some vehicles (I wish all) employ a "Check Gauges" light or tone when something is amiss, and others employ just red warning lights in lieu of gauges, which is unfortunately information too little, too late.

My short list for sparing mechanicals of unnecessary abuse: Apply the parking brake every time you park, before placing transmission in park. Select a lower gear on moderate to steep hills (spares the brakes from heat abuse; 2500-3000 RPM provides helpful hold-back). Renew brake fluid, coolant, belts and hoses every 4-5 years. Consider a sun windshield shade to protect the vinyl instrument panel. Clean and wax paint every six months, and keep seat seams free of sand/debris.

Life & Style

Yo, Adrian! 'Rocky' still packs a punch as Philly favorite

By DAN GELSTON
AP SPORTS WRITER

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— The Brazilian exchange student made one request of his host before his study abroad semester was cut short and he returned home to Sao Paulo:

Take me to Rocky.

On the way to the Philadelphia airport, Joao Martucci, who studied linguistics at West Chester University, took a pit stop and beelined to the Rocky Balboa statue at the base of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. He raised his arms in triumph like Philly's favorite fictional fighter and then recreated the boxer's famous run up 72 stone steps to the entrance of the museum. He celebrated his ascent by waving his arms and hopping around (minus the strains of "Gonna Fly Now") just as Sylvester Stallone's character had done at the end of his training run in "Rocky."

"I just really like the films about Rocky," he said. "I really wanted to know the statue and the stairs."

He's not alone in his Rocky fandom. From South Philly to Brazil and round the globe, an incalculable number of Rocky Balboa fans recreated the run made famous in "Rocky" and duplicated in sequels, spinoffs and Super Bowl spots.

The 1976 film won a best picture Oscar and transcended the sports genre to become a pop culture sensation and is etched in Philadelphia history every bit as much as the Liberty Bell and Ben Franklin.

You know the quotes by heart:

"Yo, Adrian!"

"You're gonna eat lightnin' and you're gonna crap thunder!"

"Cut me, Mick!"

"Ain't gonna be no rematch."

Just like Balboa in his first fight with Apollo Creed, "Rocky" failed to win the big one among the contenders for top sports movie. "Rocky" finished tied with "Bull Durham" for No. 2 in The Associated Press Top 25 favorite sports movies poll. There were several Rocky rounds that could have cracked the poll -- "Rocky" bred four sequels, "Rocky Balboa," and two Michael B. Jordan-led "Creed" films.

The movie did more for Philly than create easy landmarks for fans to visit or grumble their best "Yo, Adrian!" impressions; it inspired everything from a short-lived Broadway play to Philadelphia's Rocky Run, a 50k (31 miles) jaunt based on the inspirational montage in the 1979 flick as Balboa trains for his heavyweight championship rematch with Creed.

But it's the first movie that packs a punch with the city, back when Balboa was just a down-on-his luck boxer that served as a metaphor on what it means to fight for love and prove you have the eye of the tiger.

Tanyell Blake, a "Rocky" fanatic, had to go the (social) distance and escape feeling cooped up in her Pemberton, New Jersey, home to make her first trip to the statue. Stallone commissioned the statue for a scene in 1982's "Rocky III" and donated it to the city afterward. Lines usually snake around the museum sidewalk full of fans who want a snapshot and a selfie with the 9-foot-11, 1,300-pound bronze beast. During the coronvirus pandemic, it's easy to step up and go eye-to-bronze knee with the statue, no wait necessary.

Blake loved all the "Rocky" movies but called the first one her "all-time favorite." She had knee surgery and felt inspired by the films to run the steps.

"I did it. I made it," she said. "I can check it off my bucket list now. I went the distance. Up and down."

At the 2006 "Rocky Balboa" premiere in Philadelphia, Stallone said he owed so much of the movie's success to the city.

"It belongs to Philadelphia," he said. "It's a very unique relationship. It's something no one could have ever planned on."

Mike Kunda turned his resemblance of a Stallone into a career as owner of the Yo, Philly! Rocky Film Tour. Wearing a pork pie hat and black leather coat, the 52-year-old Kunda has given nearly 1,100 tours of "Rocky" movie locations since he began in 2011, telling the inside story of "Rocky" as he drives fans around the city from the street where Rocky flirts with Adrian after their first date to the telephone pole where a loan shark yells at Balboa for failing to collect a debt.

AP

In this April 3, 2020, photo, Timothy Frank visits the Rocky Statue at the Philadelphia Art Museum in Philadelphia.

Elvis Presley's Graceland set to reopen this week in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)— Elvis Presley's Graceland says it will reopen Thursday after it shut down tours and exhibits due to the new coronavirus outbreak.

The tourist attraction in Memphis, Tennessee, said Sunday that it has adjusted its tours, and restaurant and retail operations, since it closed in March.

The Memphis tourist attraction is centered on the life and career of the late rock n' roll icon. It annually attracts more than 600,000 visitors, including international travelers, Elvis Presley Enterprises said.

Graceland said in a news release that it is reducing tours of Presley's former home-turned-museum to 25% capacity, requiring employees and encouraging visitors to wear face masks, and limiting restaurant capacities to 50%.

Temperature checks for guests and employees will be implemented and hand sanitizing stations are being installed, Graceland said.

"We are helping Memphis and Tennessee to get back to some sense of normality," said Joel Weinshanker, managing partner of Graceland Holdings, in a statement.

Sister thinks twice about becoming a kidney donor

DEAR ABBY: I'm currently waiting to donate my kidney to my sister, who is a year older than I am. My husband and I traveled many hours to get evaluated and tested at her clinic, so the insurance would cover the cost.

Before heading back to our home state, we decided to stop by to pay her a surprise visit and, honestly, she did something that's making me rethink my decision. She was eating pizza and drinking a can of soda. Abby, my sister is on dialysis and supposed to be following a strict diet. It upset my husband, but he didn't say anything to her because we had just had an argument in the car about my decision to donate to her. It upset me, too, but I didn't speak up either.

I have been disciplined all my adult life, living a healthy life and making smart choices to benefit my body. Now that my sister needs a kidney, I feel this may have been the reason for my good habits. How can I stress to her how important it is to me that she adopt better eating habits if she is to get my kidney? I don't have another one to donate if she ruins this one. My husband and I will also be sacrificing time away from our four kids (ages 1-15) for the surgery and recovery.

SECOND THOUGHTS IN TEXAS

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: Your concerns are valid. Donating a kidney is a decision that needs to be well thought out. It is also a decision that is ultimately up to only you. It shouldn't be made because you feel pressure based on who you're donating to, in your case, your sister. Keep in mind, it's impossible to control another person's behavior. Once this precious gift is given, there's no going back. Speak up now and let her know how you felt about what you saw, but understand it won't necessarily guarantee that she will make any changes.

My suggestion is to continue this conversation with your living donor social worker or ILDA (independent living donor advocate) at the transplant center where you were evaluated. These professionals can help to guide you toward making the best decision by further exploring your concerns, not only for you, but also your family.

While being a living kidney donor can be a positive and beautiful experience, it is equally important to make sure that it's the right decision for you. The same is true for anyone considering donating. For those who are interested in being a potential kidney donor and would like to confidentially connect with someone who has already donated, contact the Patient Information Help Line of the National Kidney Foundation ((855) 653-2273). However: THIS IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR SPEAKING WITH A LIVING DONOR SOCIAL WORKER OR ILDA.

DEAR ABBY: I understand that nonbinary folks prefer the pronoun "they" instead of "she" or "he." It's going to take some getting used to, but that's OK. My question is, when using "they" but referring to one person, do you use a singular or plural verb? Singular sounds weird, but plural is confusing.

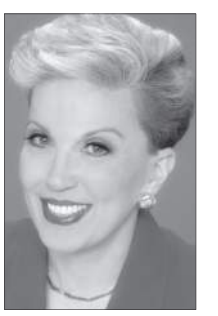
THE GRAMMAR NERD

DEAR GRAMMAR: I agree that the usage will take some people a while to get used to, but language is constantly changing. Use the plural form of the verb when speaking about a nonbinary or gender-fluid person who prefers "they." Example: "They are a new member of our company." Or, "I love singer Sam Smith. They have won four Grammy Awards."

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

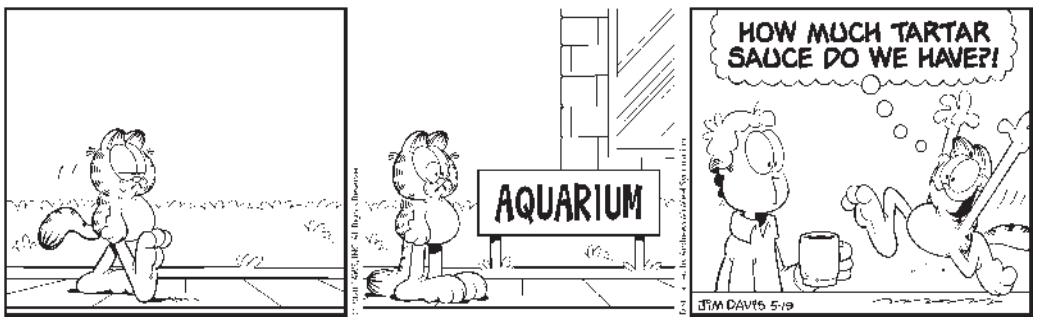
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

SPACEMAN SPIFF IS BEING HELD PRISONER BY HIDEOUS ALIENS! WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH HIM?
SPIFF IS SOON TO FIND OUT! OUR HERO IS CALLED BEFORE THE ALIEN POTENTATE!
...WHERE IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT SPIFF IS ABOUT TO BE SACRIFICED...
...TO APPEASE THE EVIL GOD THEY CALL "NOLLIJ"?
UP TO THE BLACKBOARD. HURRY UP.

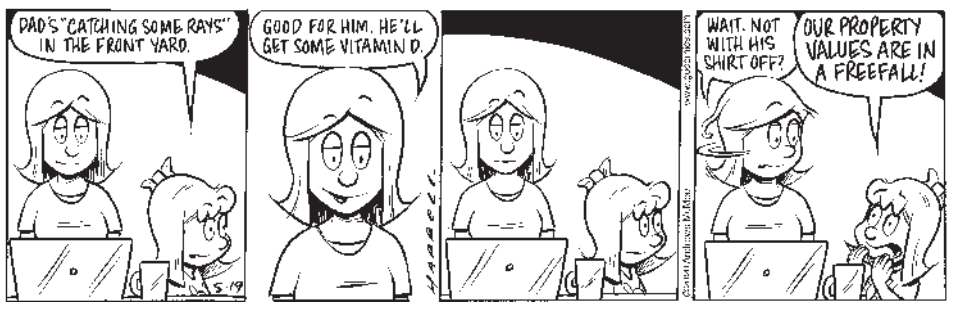
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD'S "CATCHING SOME RAYS" IN THE FRONT YARD.
GOOD FOR HIM. HE'LL GET SOME VITAMIN D.
WAIT. NOT WITH HIS SHIRT OFF?
OUR PROPERTY VALUES ARE IN A FREEFALL!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IT'S NICE TO GET OUT AND VISIT. NATZI AND I HAVE BEEN COOPED UP FOR WEEKS.
YEAH, SAME WITH ENO AND ME.
I'LL BET ENO'S HAVING A HARD TIME HAVING TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME ON THE COUCH.
THAT WAS SARCASM.
WELL, HE WANTS TO SPEND HIS STIMULUS CHECK ON REUPHOLSTERY AND SLIPCOVERS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pouchlike parts
5 Potential syrup
8 Pleased
12 Slender woodwind
13 I love (Lat.)
14 "— & Stitch"
15 Grecian vessels
16 Sheepskins
18 Sleepwear
20 Obliterate
21 Wrestling surface
22 — chi
23 Glum
26 Nassau's islands
30 Arctic explorer John
31 Chairman of China
32 Storm center
33 Marks of shame
36 Food from heaven
38 Superman foe Luthor
39 Raw mineral
40 Diva's solos
43 Bafflers
47 "This Is Us" and "Mad Men"
49 Roof overhang
50 Conference leader?
51 Rage
52 Inter —
53 War god
54 Suitable
55 Spruced up

DOWN
1 Gumbo or bisque, e.g.
2 "East of Eden" girl
3 Pt. of speech
4 Bagel choice
5 Egypt's Anwar
6 Writer Kingsley
7 Soda
8 "Conga" singer Estefan
9 — bean
10 "Sad to say ..."
11 Prescribed amount
17 Wife of Jacob
19 Mother's Day month
22 Eastern "way"
23 "— Miniver"
24 Granola morsel
25 Architect I. M.
26 Some coll. degrees
27 Chaps
28 Writer Rand
29 Salt source
31 Upper limit
34 Stares angrily
35 Arizona city
36 Hosp. scan
37 Sea off Greece
39 Start
40 "— girl!"
41 Winnebago owner, briefly
42 Between jobs
43 Lawman Wyatt
44 Like ganders
45 Athletic shoe brand
46 Pants part
48 Ms. Farrow

Solution time: 22 mins.

P	A	L	L	■	M	A	P	■	E	M	M	A
E	■	E	C	■	A	G	A	■	D	E	A	L
R	A	S	H	■	N	O	R	V	I	L	L	E
U	N	S	A	I	D	■	K	E	T	T	L	E
■	■	■	I	M	A	C	■	T	E	D	■	■
N	O	R	M	A	R	A	F	■	D	O	N	S
A	A	A	■	N	I	P	A	T	■	W	O	K
T	R	I	B	■	N	O	R	M	A	N	D	Y
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N	O	R	T	H	E	R	N	■	U	S	E	N
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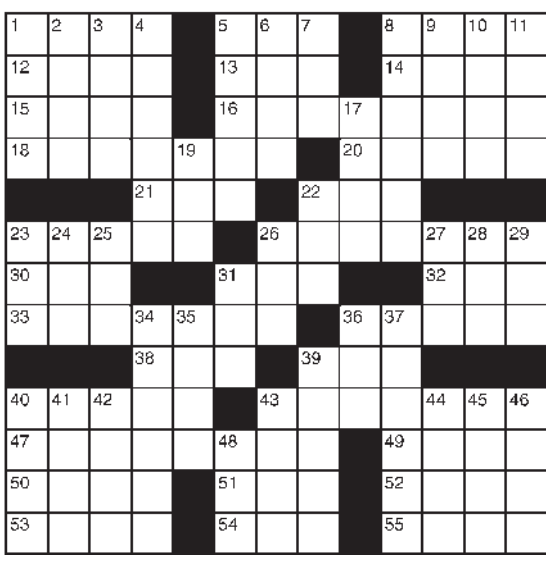
N	A	P	S	■	S	N	L	■	D	E	G	Y

Yesterday's answer 5-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dario Franchitti, 47; Polly Walker, 54; Grace Jones, 72; Pete Townshend, 75.

Happy Birthday: Preparation is the name of the game. Do your due diligence, and you'll gain the confidence to present and promote what you have to offer. Your changing lifestyle requires you to explore new ways of doing things. Use your intelligence, and be innovative in your approach to work, love and overall happiness. Branch out, and dance to a unique beat. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 25, 34, 38, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Balance will be necessary if you are going to finish what you start. Simplicity and precision will be the paths to getting what you want. Avoid getting dragged into someone's melodrama. Make a decision based on reality and practicality. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Strong opinions with facts to back your claims will help you recognize who is in your corner. Keep a positive attitude, and refrain from showing disappointment if someone chooses to head in a different direction. Live in the moment. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Handle your finances with finesse. Don't engage in joint ventures. Put your money, possessions and passwords in a safe place. An offer someone makes will have ulterior motives. Do what's best for you. Handle a romantic gesture carefully. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Show everyone what you are capable of doing. Step outside your comfort zone and try something new. Taking a different approach to an old idea will jump-start a stalemate you encounter. A financial gain is heading your way. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Look at the pros and cons of a situation, and make a compromise to offset any negativity you encounter. Share your ideas and concerns, and suggestions will develop. Don't make an impulsive move. Time is on your side. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Handle your financial, legal and health concerns yourself. If you let someone take over, you will be disappointed with the results. Be open and make suggestions, but when it comes to taking care of business, avoid joint ventures. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Stay on top of expenditures, responsibilities and excessive behavior. Learn from the experience, and act moderately and in good faith to avoid setbacks. Personal improvement should entail practicality, not a promise, a product or sales pitch offering the impossible. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Be open, attentive and respectful when dealing with others, and you will avoid a situation that can limit you. It's OK to be different, but don't let it cost you financially or damage your reputation. Stick to the truth. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A problem or concern regarding a friend, relative or neighbor will escalate if you are too generous or accommodating. Pay closer attention to what's going on at home or with someone close to you. Protect what's important to you. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make changes at home that will make your life easier. Don't count on getting help from someone unless you are ready to offer something in return. How you approach a job will reflect how well others respect you. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make your position clear, and offer only what you are willing to do. Stick close to home, and spend time sorting through what to keep and what to donate to charity. Put health, fitness and meaningful relationships first. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be careful when dealing with others. Don't be too open about the way you feel or what you plan to do. Someone will use personal information against you if you don't store your personal information and passwords properly. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, fun-loving and persistent. You are opportunistic and helpful.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					6		1	
9		4			7			
		7	5	1		8	3	
8	6					2		
		1				4		
		3					5	6
	9	8		7	2	6		
			6			7		9
	5		9					

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/19

Yesterday's Answer

7	2	4	5	8	6	1	3	9
8	9	3	2	1	7	4	6	5
5	6	1	9	3	4	7	2	8
6	3	5	8	2	1	9	7	4
9	4	7	3	6	5	2	8	1
1	8	2	7	4	9	6	5	3
3	1	8	6	9	2	5	4	7
2	5	9	4	7	8	3	1	6
4	7	6	1	5	3	8	9	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

STARTS WITH P, ENDS WITH Y — Solution: 7 letters

P	Y	O	B	R	E	P	A	P	R	I	V	A	C	Y
A	E	P	R	I	V	Y	P	O	T	T	E	R	Y	G
T	L	A	Y	A	D	Y	A	P	O	E	T	R	Y	G
R	S	Y	C	O	P	I	N	K	Y	P	P	E	P	I
I	I	P	R	E	P	E	T	R	I	F	Y	A	R	P
M	A	A	H	T	F	P	R	O	P	E	R	L	Y	P
O	P	S	Y	O	S	U	Y	P	R	O	U	D	L	Y
N	Y	S	Y	G	T	A	L	R	I	Y	Y	Y	P	L
Y	G	E	H	Y	O	O	P	L	P	M	N	T	O	E
H	O	R	C	E	P	L	G	P	Y	U	O	R	L	V
C	G	B	T	R	A	Y	O	R	O	L	P	A	I	I
A	A	Y	I	P	R	P	S	H	A	U	R	P	C	S
E	D	C	P	H	O	N	Y	O	T	P	T	A	Y	S
P	E	P	P	E	R	Y	A	L	P	A	H	Y	E	A
Y	P	A	T	H	W	A	Y	K	C	I	P	Y	Y	P

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Paisley, Pantry, Paperboy, Parody, Party, Passerby, Passively, Pastry, Pathology, Pathway, Patrimony, Payday, Peacefully, Peachy, Pearly, Pedagogy, Peppery, Peppy, Petrify, Phony, Photography, Picky, Piggy, Pinky, Pitchy, Play, Poetry, Policy, Pony, Poppy, Posy, Pottery, Pouty, Pray, Prey, Pricey, Privacy, Privy, Properly, Proudly, Puppy

Yesterday's Answer: Merci Beaucoup

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 40, 42, and 44 through 58 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Jordan, Bulls end dynasty

CHICAGO—The Last Dance documentary series on Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls' final championship run during the 1997-98 season finished Sunday.

Episode 9 began with a look at the rivalry that developed between Jordan and Indiana Pacers star Reggie Miller. Jordan talked about how beating the Pacers "became personal to me" as tensions between the two teams reached their zenith during the 1998 Eastern Conference finals.

Miller, for his part, never backed down to Jordan, but he quickly learned how competitive Jordan could be in an instant.

"Never talk trash to black Jesus," Miller said.

The documentary then looked at how Karl Malone winning the NBA's most valuable player award for the 1996-97 season motivated Jordan during the NBA Finals against the Utah Jazz. Jordan also recounted his first meeting with Jazz forward Bryon Russell and how it ended up being a motivating factor for Jordan in the series, too.

Jordan then talked about Game 5 of the 1997 NBA Finals—the infamous "flu game."

The night before the game, ordered a pizza from his Salt Lake City hotel room. Jordan's personal trainer, Tim Grover, immediately grew suspicious when "five guys" delivered the pizza.

But Jordan ate the entire pizza, and he quickly regretted it. "It wasn't the flu. It was food poisoning," he said.

Despite Jordan feeling awful, he put up one of the greatest performances in NBA playoff history in Game 5 to deliver the Bulls to victory.

The documentary ends with Jordan and Bulls reflecting on their time together and moving on from the dynasty.

"I felt like we could have won seven. I really believe that," Jordan said. "We may not have. But man, just not to be able to try, that's just something that I can't accept for whatever reason. I just can't accept it."

Krauze: Health, salary issues break up team

The Bulls effectively announced the conclusion of their dynasty in 1997.

Bulls general manager Jerry Krause said he and Phil Jackson agreed it'd be Jackson's last season as coach. Michael Jordan had already said he wouldn't play for any other coach. No more Michael Jordan, no more dynasty. The terms were clear.

So, the Bulls went on one more run—a "Last Dance"—and won the 1998 championship. If breaking up this team weren't already dubious, doing so immediately after another title seemed even more misguided. Didn't management reconsider?

Krause in his unpublished memoir, said "I'm now going to take you to a place no Bulls outsider has ever been, a meeting in early July 1998. It was attended by Jerry Reinsdorf, myself, (assistant general manager) Jim Stack, Al Vermeil, the team doctors and surgeons, (VP of finance) Irwin Mandel and (assistant to the GM) Karen Stack. Vermeil knew more about the condition of the players' bodies than even the medical people. He had continually tested them in and out of season during the entire championship run. We had asked then-trainer Chip Schaefer to submit a written report on the team's health."

"The first question I asked was how much did people think we could get out of Luc Longley, a free-agent-to-be who we'd had to rest periodically over the last few years because of unstable ankles. Al and the doctors thought he would break down quickly," he added.

Then came the issues on Pippen.

"He's had two major surgeries in two years, one of them late in the summer to purposely defy our instructions to do it earlier and not miss regular-season time. He wants to rightfully be paid superstar dollars. Is he worth the risk, especially if we can't find a center and a power forward, and he and Michael have to carry the load for a new coach? I seriously doubt it," Krause said.

"Put yourself in our shoes as we walk out of that room. What would you do? Did we break up a dynasty or was the dynasty breaking up of age, natural attrition of NBA players with little time to recuperate and the salary-cap rules that govern the game?

As the summer wore on and players were locked out of the training facilities by the league—that would mean the NBA season would not start until late January—things got even worse. Michael sliced a finger on a cigar cutter that would've prevented him from playing an entire season," he added.

The Bulls had Bird Rights on every player mentioned. Salary-cap rules would've allowed Chicago to re-sign all its own free agents. It would've been expensive, but legal. Of course, Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf had spending limits. That was a key consideration in breaking up the team. It's unfair Krause so often took all the blame for decisions that also involved Reinsdorf. Even in death, Krause—with this excerpt —is still shielding Reinsdorf.

Krause was involved, too. And his logic has flaws.

It's so difficult to build a championship contender, and Krause helped do it. Teams shouldn't take that window for granted while it's open.

Even if Krause were right about the team's low odds in 1999, what did rushing into rebuilding get the Bulls? They were awful the next five seasons. They went the next dozen years with just two winning seasons.

At least Chicago would have had a chance of meaningful success in 1999—depending on Jordan's finger.

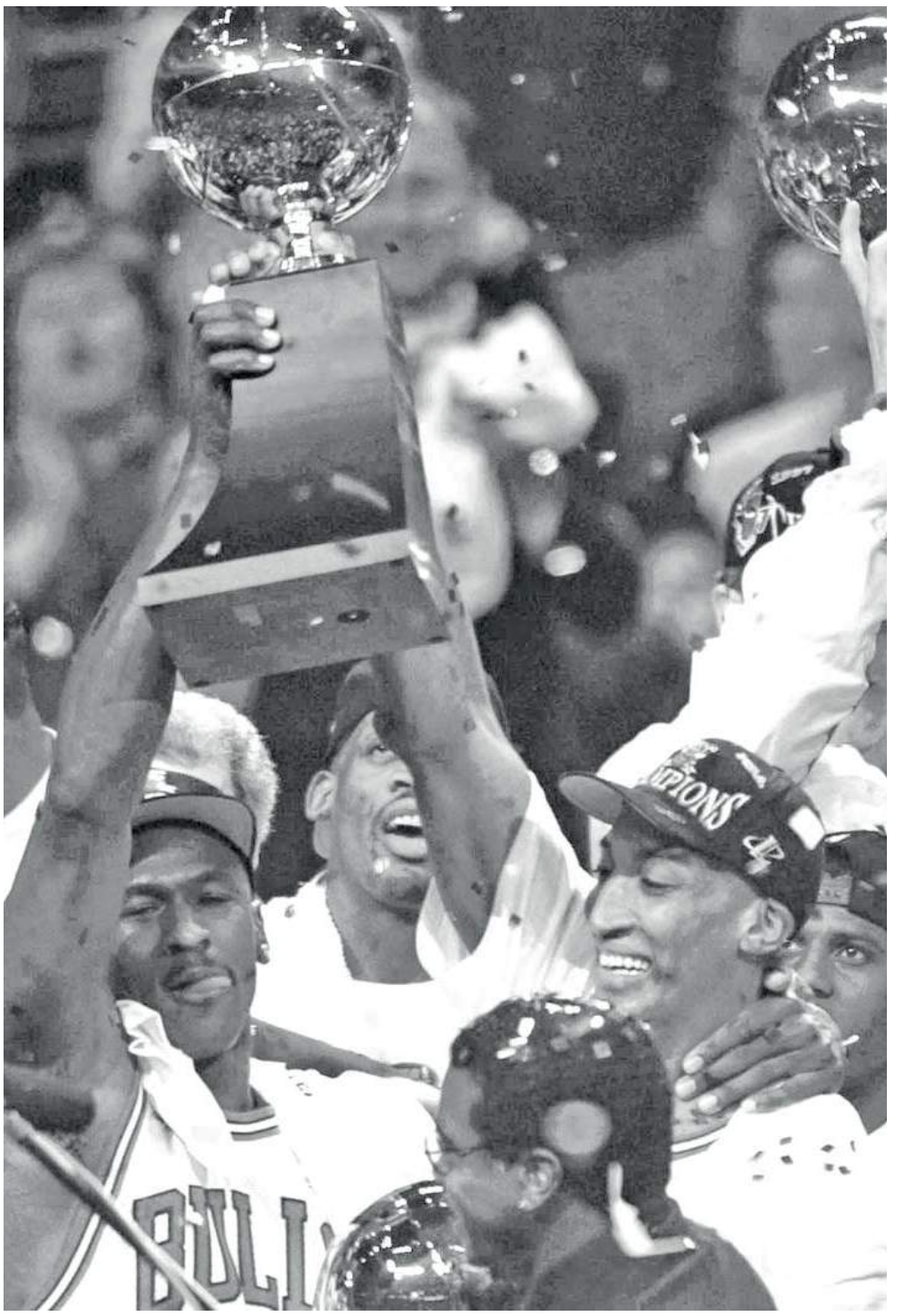
This is the first time I've seen it described as a full-season injury. Jordan himself said, "The doctors said I couldn't play for about two months." Jordan also said he decided to retire before cutting his finger, which happened while vacationing in the Bahamas. If Krause and Jackson had resolved their issues and Jordan planned to return for another run, Jordan probably would've been training rather than vacationing.

Pippen (Rockets), Rodman (Lakers) and Longley (Suns) all declined with new teams during the 1999 season. Maybe that would've happened similarly in Chicago. But Pippen and Longley had significantly differently roles. Particularly, Pippen fumed about being third option behind Hakeem Olajuwon and Charles Barkley in Houston. Rodman benefited from the structure of playing for the winning Bulls. Toni Kukoc was also ascending and could've supplanted Rodman as starting forward.

Kevin Pelton of ESPN analyzed how the Bulls would've fared if they kept their core intact in 1999. He projected them as the top team in the Eastern Conference, though not the league. If they met the actual-champion Spurs in the NBA Finals, the Bulls – with all their playoff experience—certainly would've had a fighting chance.

Pelton's method accounts for aging, but not the specific medical issues of Bulls players. Krause's insight there matters.

But a player's long-term health is difficult to predict. There are no certainties. Remember, Krause explored replacing Jackson in 1996 and trading Pippen in 1997. With either move, Chicago's run could've ended even sooner. ***(AP/NBC)***



AP

In this June 13, 1997 file photo, Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan celebrates with teammate Scottie Pippen, left, as the Bulls defeated the Utah Jazz, 90-86, in Game 6 to win the NBA championship in Chicago.

WHO urges unity to help make Tokyo Olympics safe

GENEVA (AP)—The head of the World Health Organization said last weekend it will not be easy to make next year's Tokyo Olympics a safe global gathering after the pandemic.

Speaking at a joint news conference with the IOC, the WHO's director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called for "national unity and global solidarity" to fight the coronavirus outbreak ahead of the Olympics. The Games, postponed this year, should bring athletes from more than 200 countries to Japan.

The Summer Games opening ceremony is now due on July 23, 2021, after the International Olympic Committee and organizers in Japan used WHO advice in March before agreeing a one-year delay.

"We hope Tokyo will be a place where humanity will gather with triumph against COVID," Tedros said at WHO headquarters.

"It is in our hands, but it is not easy. If we do our best, especially with national unity and global solidarity, I think it's possible," he said.

Around 11,000 athletes from more than 200 teams are due to compete at the Tokyo Olympics. Most would be joined by team officials staying in an athletes village complex of 5,600 apartments at Tokyo Bay.

Health experts, including in Japan, have questioned how the 33-sport Olympics can be run before an effective global vaccine program is in place.

"Nobody can at this moment in time really give you a reliable answer on how the world will look like in July 2021," IOC president Thomas Bach acknowledged.

"It is too early to start speculation on different scenarios and what it may need at the time to guarantee this safe environment for all participants."

Tedros and Bach signed a renewed working agreement between the two organizations, which aims to help promote sport to governments as part of an active and healthy lifestyle.

McIlroy delivers as live golf returns to TV

FLORIDA (AP)—Rory McIlroy delivered the money shot Sunday as live golf returned to television for a Skins game that revealed plenty of rust and raised more than $5 million for COVID-19 relief funds.

McIlroy and Dustin Johnson, who had not won a skin since the sixth hole, had a chance to win the final six skins worth $1.1 million on the final hole at Seminole in the TaylorMade Driving Relief exhibition. Both missed and they returned to the par-3 17th for a closest-to-the-pin contest.

From a forward tee at 120 yards, Matthew Wolff was 18 feet below the hole. His partner, Rickie Fowler, missed the green. Johnson found a bunker. Down to the last shot, McIlroy barely stayed on the shelf left of the pin, measured at 13 feet.

"Air five," McIlroy said, alluding to the social distancing in place at Juno Beach, Florida.

The final carryover gave McIlroy and Johnson $1.85 million for the American Nurses Foundation. Fowler, who made seven birdies, and Wolff made $1.15 million for the CDC Foundation.

"I'm proud to be part of an event to entertain people at home on a Sunday afternoon and to raise money for people who need it," McIlroy said as he played the 18th hole.

Wolff, the 21-year-old Californian with big game and plenty of swagger, earned $450,000 toward relief funds by having the longest drives on two par 5s—356 yards on No. 2 and 368 yards on No. 14.

Fowler's seven birdies were worth $270,000 in a separate fund from Farmers Insurance, while McIlroy made four birdies in regulation worth $175,000 and Wolff had three birdies for $135,000. Johnson, who showed the most rust, had two birdies for $75,000.

PGA Tour Charities allowed for online donations during the telecast, raising more than $1 million. The donations will continue until Tuesday. When the exhibition ended, more than $5.5 million had been pledged, starting with the $3 million guarantee from UnitedHeath Group.

AP

In this March 12, 2020 file photo, Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland plays a shot on the 8th hole during The Players Championship on at TPC Sawgrass-Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Players carried their own bags.

Television had a skeleton crew on the grounds—the play-by-play and analysts were 200 miles away in St. Augustine, Florida, while host Mike Tirico was at his home office in Michigan. The match went over four hours, primarily because players were at times held in place to give the six TV cameras time to get in position on the next hole.

Mark Russell, the PGA Tour's vice president of of rules and competition, was the only one to handle the flagstick. Bunkers didn't need to be raked because they were the only match on the course, which closed for the summer last week.

"It was an awesome day," McIlroy said. "It was nice to get back on the golf course and get back to some sort of normalcy."

The players wore microphones, though the banter was limited and ended early.

Most of it came from McIlroy, who had to make a short par putt on the second hole for a push. He rolled it in and said to Wolff, "I think you forget I've won two FedEx Cups that total $25 million. That doesn't faze me, youngster."

Fowler played the best golf and staked his side to the lead with four birdies in a six-hole stretch around the turn, including a 20-footer on No. 11 that was worth two skins at $200,000. He raised his finger and McIlroy said, "Did you hear all those cheers?" There were no fans, and fewer than 50 people were at Seminole. All were tested for the new coronavirus.

That was the start of golf's return.

The last live competition on TV was March 12, the first round of The Players Championship. It was canceled the next day, along with other tournaments that either were scrapped or postponed.

Next up is another exhibition match on May 24 down the road at Medalist, where Tiger Woods plays when home. Woods and Peyton Manning will face Phil Mickelson and Tom Brady in a match billed as "Champions for Charity" that will raise $10 million for COVID-19 relief efforts.

The real show is to return on June 11 with the Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial in Fort Worth, Texas. The tour has said it will not allow fans for at least a month, and perhaps longer depending on it goes. Players will have access to charter flights and a designated hotel.

Lefty QB Tagovailoa a rarity in right-handed NFL

MIAMI (AP)—When Tua Tagovailoa signed his rookie contract with the Miami Dolphins, the left-handed quarterback from Alabama didn't have to worry about smudging his signature.

He signed the documents with his right hand.

Yes, the NFL's latest lefty QB is a natural right-hander, one whose father, Galu, turned him into a (sometimes) southpaw in his youth.

"My dad was the only lefty in our family and he wanted me to be a lefty as well, so he switched the way I threw," explained Tagovailoa, who still eats, writes and golfs right-handed but shoots baskets and throws footballs with his left.

"I don't think I would be here if I was a righty," said Tagovailoa. "Because I know I'm only good with my left hand throwing the ball."

That makes Tagovailoa an oddity in the NFL, where a left-hander hasn't started at quarterback since 2015, when Dallas' Kellen Moore threw for 435 yards in a Week 17 loss to Washington.

Since then, 116 quarterbacks have thrown a pass in the NFL, and all of them were right-handed.

The last lefty to throw a TD pass wasn't even a quarterback but a wide receiver: the Cowboys' Dez Bryant threw a 25-yard strike to Jason Witten in 2016 against Detroit.

Miami's first-round pick Tua Tagovailoa is an oddity in the NFL, where a left-hander hasn't started at quarterback since 2015. Since then, 116 quarterbacks have thrown an NFL pass and all of them were right-handed.

Fewer than three dozen southpaws have played quarterback in the NFL's 100-year history, something that irks Steve Young, the most decorated left-handed QB and the first to reach the Hall of Fame, 11 years before Ken Stabler's posthumous induction in 2016.

"There's something wrong from a statistical standpoint," Young said, noting that with 10% of the general population being left-handed, every year there should be a half-dozen lefties among the league's 64 or so quarterbacks.

"And we've never been 10%," Young said. "I can never remember six of us at one time. It was Boomer Esiason, myself, Mark Brunell, Jim Zorn early on. I can think of four or five, never six at one time, ever. Later on, Michael Vick."

Now, lefties are lucky there's even one of them.

"I will never say a kid is left-handed so he can't play in the National Football League," Steelers GM Colbert said. "That would be a naive statement. That would never concern us whatsoever."

Added 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan: "A good thrower is a good thrower. I would say it's probably a coincidence, probably less pool to choose from."

The bias certainly doesn't begin in the pros.

"I don't follow all college teams, but I never see a lefty quarterback," Young said. "So, the NFL might say, 'Hey don't look at me. There's no lefties coming out of college.' Then, the colleges say, 'Look, there's no lefties coming out of high school.'"

Even the experts are stumped over what's caused this paucity of southpaws.

"I really don't know the answer," shrugged Ravens GM Eric DeCosta.

"Quite honestly, I don't know," added Falcons GM Thomas Dimitroff.

"I usually have an answer or can dance around a lot of things," Vikings GM Rick Spielman acknowledged. "That one, I have no answer to."

"I don't have an answer," either, added Broncos GM John Elway, who did offer a guess: he wonders if all the good lefty QBs are becoming pitchers instead.

"Those lefties that can throw heat are pretty coveted," said Elway, himself a minor league farmhand (as a right-handed outfielder) in the Yankees system the summer before beginning his Hall of Fame NFL career.

"If I could be a left-handed pitcher and throw in the 90s and play major league baseball, that's a pretty good gig," Jaguars coach Doug Marrone said. "I don't have anyone 300 pounds running at me trying to take me down."

Young doesn't blame baseball.

"I could never have been a major league pitcher, I couldn't have even been a college pitcher. But I could play quarterback," Young said. "A small percentage of quarterbacks can pitch in the major leagues. Or even pitch in college. Quarterbacking and pitching don't necessarily go hand in hand.

"So, the only thing I can go with is that coaches don't want to coach lefties."

Young speaks from experience.

He was an incoming freshman at Brigham Young in 1981 when the Cougars' offensive coordinator, Doug Scovil, pulled him aside and told him bluntly that he didn't coach left-handed quarterbacks, so he'd better move to safety.

Scovil soon left, however, to become the head coach at San Diego State.

‘Don’t touch other player’s balls’

BAHAMAS—Nassau County principals desire their citizens to kick each other’s balls if they must, yet don’t you attempt go touching them … tennis balls, that is. Hey, no laughter!

That was basically just how it seemed when County Executive Laura Curran provided a review on just how Nassau was most likely to browse resuming tennis courts there, and also what the brand-new guidelines would certainly be when dealing with each other’s balls. Again, tennis balls.

In reality, you can inform Curran was attempting her hardest to obtain words “tennis” in there every single time she stated “balls,” yet at some point she slid … and also allow a complimentary round run loose in her line, stating people can kick other individuals’ balls (back over to the proprietor if they take place to roll on over, is what she suggested), yet there is to be no touching of stated balls!

That obtained a good chuckle from the group that was paying attention, and also lastly Curran herself went crazy also. She stated she was going to flush and also once more made one more balls reference that obtained one more laugh from almost every person.

US Open in Orlando?

Organizers of the US Open are coming under increasing pressure to change both its date and venue—with Orlando in Florida being considered instead of Flushing Meadow, the grand slam event’s home since 1978.

The next wave of tournament cancellations is expected to be confirmed on Friday, moving the hypothetical start date of the professional tour back from July 13 until the start of August.

The US Open, which is still scheduled to start on Aug 31, brings in more than 80 per cent of the United States Tennis Association’s annual revenue. Its cancellation would have catastrophic effects. The latest theory is that a closed-doors event could be staged in Orlando late in the year, at the recently constructed 100-court USTA National Campus.

Admittedly, there are plenty of challenges to this idea. The courts would require wiring for TV broadcast, the player areas would need to be upgraded and temporarily extended, and a catering service would have to be installed. ***(AP/NBC)***

COLEMAN

From Page 20

also played for the national team and is set to compete for Navarro College in Texas.

Emily Gries-Maxberry, Coleman’s teammate, added that with a lot of options and exposure to soccer off-island, CNMI players must be willing to learn from their coaches and co-players.

“Be open to criticism and accept that you need coaching. You can’t play soccer by yourself. You need your coaches and teammates and this applies not only in soccer, but also in life,” Gries-Maxberry.

The midfielder also encouraged players off to college or any leagues outside the CNMI to come back and play for the national team.

“Playing for a small island is a big part of my playing career. It’s a big honor and one must be willing and ready to play,” said Gries-Maxberry, who already moved back to the mainland, but returned to don the CNMI colors anew in 2009.

Meanwhile, Lindsay Davis, another member of the first NMI WNT, said today’s players are so fortunate to have a facility and other resources (working with visiting coaches, clinics, training camps) to help fast track their development.

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

In this July 2012 file photo, the CNMI’s Natalie Hill, third left, and Jhaneeka Atalig defends against a Guam player during the EAFF Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition Round 1 at the Leo Palace in Guam. Hill, Patricia Coleman, Emily Gries-Maxberry, and Lindsay Davis graced the pilot episode of Footcast with Norman last Saturday.

Davis recalled that during their time with the national team or when they were still playing in local leagues, they did not have the beautiful pitch like the one in Koblerville (NMI Soccer Training Center). They considered it a luxury playing at the Oleai Sports Complex, as they used to play at the American Memorial Park and the Airport Field where the ball will just stop when it’s muddy and they will get scratches from the wild grass.

CUKI

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bikes, he got my brother and I our very first mini bike—a Suzuki RM 80cc. The RM80 was actually kind of big for my brother and I at the time so my dad had to take off the rear suspension and drop the front forks so we could reach the ground with our feet. He taught us how to control the gas throttle and release the clutch, and within a few minutes, we were riding solo around the village in Sinajana. All I remember is I did not want to get off the bike and I kept riding until it was dark,” he said.

The Alvarez family raced in motocross for 30 years (1997 to 2007), while Cuki also competed professionally in jet ski from 1989 to 1994. He joined the Lake Havasu City Arizona twice for the World Finals, raced and won numerous times in Guam and the Philippines, also topped international races in Thailand and Malaysia.

Alvarez also spent three years in off-road car racing and a little over a year in wake boarding.

“I also had a stint in off-road car racing in 1992. I raced at the world renowned Glen Helen National Raceway in San Bernardino, California and won the Mini Mag rail car division. I guess you could say my years as a MX racer transitioned easily over to the cars and it was a simple adjustment for me. Then I raced in Guam Smoking Wheels a couple times in 1993 and 1995. But I liked bikes better and gave up car racing in 1996. I might just do it again though for sure in the future,” Alvarez said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trench Tech founder Cuki Alvarez, right, is joined in the photo by Purebred BJJ Guam owner and head instructor Stephen Roberto during a break in a training session at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan.

“I also entered a couple of wake board competitions here on Saipan in 1999 and 2001. Since I was working at the beach as a boat captain, we used to wake board everyday after work, so my whole family and I became pretty good at wake boarding too.”

When asked if he tried doing regular sports, Alvarez said he played basketball for seven years.

“I did play basketball from 1993-1999 and even played in the CNMI All-Star Team for a season before injuring my knee in 1999 right before the Micro Games in Pohnpei,” the Trench Tech main man said.

MMA switch

While going to Guam for motocross races, Alvarez developed interest in Brazilian jiu-jitsu and that eventual led to him and his friends opening up Trench Tech in 2004.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cuki Alvarez gestures to riders at the starting line during one of Marianas Racing Association’s events at Kan Pacific in Marpi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cuki Alvarez, left, and his father, Ray Sr., show the trophies the former won in jet ski races.

“I got my very first taste of BJJ in 1998 when my cousin Peter introduced me to a few of his good friends who were practicing BJJ in Guam. I always made time to follow my cousin and watch him train with the guys. Naturally I was also interested since I was an adrenaline junkie, and MMA and BJJ just drew me in,” Alvarez said.

He had no experience in BJJ before, but tried taekwondo lessons when he was 7 years old.

“I always loved Bruce Lee and learning to fight was something I had big interest in. So on my trips to Guam for a race, which was always on a Sunday, my cousin Peter took me to a Jiu Jitsu No Gi Grappling competition on the Saturday before the race that I was competing in. I watched the whole event and fell in love with the art. So every time I flew to Guam I made sure to get some training on Fridays at their dojo and learned and honed my skill set in MMA before opening up Trench Tech officially in 2004,” he said.

Snow boarding

Early this year, the Alvarez family went to Japan where Cuki found a new sport he would love to try again.

“My wife (Mari) booked a snow boarding vacation for our whole family and we went to Hokkaido at this ski resort in Niseko. My two sons, Shane and Alverick, had done snowboarding before in the states, but for the rest of us, it was all our very first time,” Cuki said.

The head of the Alvarez family maybe a newcomer, but he’s so used to traversing challenging courses that he ended up navigating the snow hills in Hanazono and The Grand Hirafu for 10 hours every day for four straight days.

“We fell in love with snow boarding. So even though we don’t have snow here on Saipan, if there’s a sport I’d like to endeavor in now, it would definitely be snow boarding. We learned pretty fast too. By Day 2, we were riding all the way from the top down to the bottom on beginner and intermediate slopes!”

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Cuki rekindles love for extreme sports

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An undated souvenir program for a motocross event in Guam includes the young Alvarez brothers, Cuki, and Boss.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cuki Alvarez, right, poses with Guam's Larry Limtiaco during a break in the 2016 APL Smokin' Wheels held in Guam.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With mixed martial arts action on a break due to the coronavirus pandemic, Trench Tech founder Cuki Alvarez is back to his first love—extreme sports.

Nowadays, Alvarez has been busy riding dirt bikes and jet ski, bringing back memories of the days when he traveled to Guam, Japan, the Philippines, and the U.S. mainland to compete in thrilling races.

"Growing up as a young child, I remember my late father, Ray Alvarez Sr., always surrounded us with thrilling sports. My dad flew hang gliders off cliffs, mountains, and hilltops. We followed him to all of his Hang Gliding excursions and competitions in California in the early '70s. Then in 1976, we moved to Guam and my dad opened a hang gliding and motorcycle shop in the village of Maite at this place called 'The Red Barn.' It was a huge barn-like building that you normally see at farms and ranches," said Alvarez when asked how he got into extreme sports.

"Not many people know this, but it was in hang gliding that I got my very first taste of an extreme adrenaline rush when my dad took me tandem flying with him on his hang glider at age 5 years old off this place called Windward Hills in Apra Heights. After that thrilling experience, I knew, I would be an adrenaline junkie all my life," Alvarez said.

From hang gliding, Alvarez got into motocross, jet ski, and off-road car racing, and even wake boarding.

"Since my dad also sold

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Coleman: Sky is the limit for NMI players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former members of the CNMI Women's National Team believe more opportunities are available for the Commonwealth players nowadays and they should take them.

"Sky is the limit for our players today," said Patricia Coleman when interviewed during the pilot episode of *Footcast with Norman* last Saturday.

"There are more opportunities for them made possible by the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and other organizations and people helping NMI soccer. They could play in college and train off-island," she added.

During Coleman's time with the NMI WNT in 2007, they only trained and played at home and since most of them are in their late 20s and early 30s, obviously they were not able to experience playing in the collegiate ranks after suiting up for the Commonwealth.

"That's why every time we hear CNMI players getting recruited for college, it makes us happy. They have to go out there and be exposed to soccer outside our islands because when they come back and able to help the national team or the clubs, they will also raise the level of play in our FA," said Coleman, whose daughter Guine

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Krizel Tuazon, right, fights for possession against a Guam player, while the former's teammate, Sharmaine Francisco gets closer to the play during their game in the 2018 Marianas Cup at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.